



Western Washington Fruit Research Foundation

September, 2011

President's Message

By Sue Williams,

It's harvest time in western Washington and aren't we all grateful for the warm end to the summer warmth that helped to ripen fruit after a cool start to the growing season.

Hi, I'm the new president of WWFRF as of July. I volunteered to take on the responsibility because I believe in the organization. Because I work full time, I haven't been able to join many of you in the Garden on Thursday mornings. I missed learning so much about growing and caring for the trees and plants in the garden from many of you and your friendship, so this is my way of giving back to WWFRF.

The board met in August to review our mission, determine what activities help to achieve our mission and goals and to be better organized and focus on what truly will meet those goals. Though we want to do many worthy activities, we are limited to what we as a volunteer organization can do. We will complete the planning at our next board meeting so that we can present to you, our members a comprehensive view of the organization goals and activities. Let me give you a preview.

The Mission of WWFRF in essence is to promote research and provide education for growing fruit in Western Washington State.

We have 3 goals:

1. Research is the foundation for what the organization teaches and demonstrates on fruit varieties and culture.
2. The Garden demonstrates and educates.
3. Events integrate and showcase the Garden.

WWFRF can't make it without each and every one of you helping us. Right now the Fruit Garden needs attention. Less of us can join in helping in the garden on Thursday mornings. We would like to start having weekend work parties in the Fruit Garden once a month and offer the opportunity to volunteer to those who would enjoy being in the Fruit Garden. These weekend volunteer events would be focused on a particular activity. We are planning now for the first Saturday workparty, which would be to prepare the garden to transplant cherry trees this fall. Can you help out? Please let us know. De Arbogast is the lead for this project. You can contact him at arbogast@fidalgo.net or the contact on the web site Info@WWFRF.org to let us know you can join us.

Please enjoy this newsletter and all the information on our activities. I welcome your feedback.

Hope to see you at the Apple & Pear Event Saturday October 8th.

Sue Williams



Jacky King, Dr. Bob Norton, and Gary Moulton were honored at the Summer Fruit Festival. Thank you for all your dedication and hard work!

October 22th Board Meeting
 11 am – 3 PM
 at Sue William's home
 2637 30th Avenue W.
 Seattle, WA, 98199

All members are welcome to attend board meetings.

IN THIS ISSUE:

President's Message	1
Notice of Board Meeting	2
Flower and Garden Show	3
Notes from the Fruit Garden.....	3
Financial Report	4
Donation Form	5
Footies for Figs?	6
Board Meeting Minutes	6
Apple and Pear Event	7
Cherry Block Project	8
Top 20 Transcript	8
Festival Volunteers	10
WWFRF MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION FORM	11

2012 Flower and Garden Show

February 8-12

Come join our award winning team! If you are interested in helping, please contact Ira Collins, 206-861-4055, <iraco@aol.com> There are three shifts per day: 9-1, 1-5, 5-8.

So if you are at the Northwest Flower and Garden Show next February, stop by the Fruitbooth and say "Hello" to your friends in the WWFRF and help spread the good word on growing fruit!

Notes from the Fruit Garden

By Jay Scott

This is a busy time of year. Fruit is ripening, and the orchard needs attention...

Several early varieties of plum, Asian pear, and peach failed to produce fruit this year. It could be lack of pollination or the cool spring, we are speculating the cause. But, our fruit garden has such a wonderful variety that it is easy to find something ready to taste.

Our earliest apple, Pristine, is ripe and characteristically dropping fruit as it ripens. Likewise, Gravenstein should be ready next week.

Over a week ago we planted and installed irrigation for another row of honey suckle (I think they are now calling them "honey berries").

The net was removed from the cherry tortura. It was spread out on the grass, holes patched, then put away for next year.

We need to patch the holes in the smaller nets before covering the grapes. Last year we failed to cover the grapes. The birds loved it.

Every Thursday morning a crew is busy raking up the early dropped fruit and prunings. We try to keep the orchard sanitary.

Then at noon we head out to harvest a modest amount of whatever fruit is ripe. Lots of blueberries were harvested this year. Now, there are only the later varieties available.

Someone must really like our Aronia berries. We found evidence of some heavy harvesting. (Just one side of a bush picked clean. Other bushes picked in a manner unlike how a bird would eat.) I like the idea of people touring our garden on their own, and even occasionally tasting something. But, it is disappointing to see results of some people's lack of restraint. This is a frequent topic of conversation at the garden this time of year.

Jay

If you would like to join the volunteers in the garden come Thursdays at 9:00am or check the website for our occasional Saturday Garden volunteering opportunities.

WWFRF Financial Report: 6/30/2011

By Walt Kropp, WWFRF Treasurer, Board Member

Current Funds

	Begin 2011	Income	Expenses	Current	+/-
General Fund*	5320.89	3449.87	2363.59	6407.17	1086.28
Research Funds	-987.00	495.00	4300.00	-4792.00	-3805.00
Fruit Garden Funds	38086.78	2178.96	1198.19	39067.55	980.77
Total Funds	42420.67	6123.83	7861.78	40682.72	-1737.95

General Fund

Income

Membership Dues	3435.00
Coffee Donations	14.87
Honey Tasting WFD	43.00
Total Income	3449.87

Operating Expenses

Change Articles of Incorporation	20.00
Printing & Mailing	1264.87
Website	209.95
Wristbands	41.90
Winter Field Day Expenses	826.87
Total Expenses	2363.59

Difference **1086.28**

Foundation Sponsored Research

Income

General Donations	495.00
-------------------	--------

Expenses

WSU Addendum #20	4300.00
------------------	---------

Difference **-3805.00**

Fruit Garden Funds Summary

Income

WFR Raffle	40.00
Fruitbooth Sales	421.00
Interest	22.96
Scionwood Sales	1695.00
Total Income	2178.96

Expenses

Fruit Garden Expenses	859.57
Rootstock Cost	253.62
Seminar – Jim Taylor	85.00
Total Fruit Garden Expenses	1198.19

Difference **\$ 980.77**

Total Income and Expenses

Income (All Categories)	\$ 6123.83
Expenses (All Categories)	\$ 7861.78
Difference	\$ -1737.95

*General Funds may pay for Research, but Research and Fruit Garden are restricted funds and do not pay operating costs.

Addendum #20 (2008) has been paid in full.

We owe WSU \$8600 for Addendum #21 (2009) with two payments totaling \$2150 to be paid in the second half of 2011, and two payments of \$2150 to be paid in the first half of 2012.

Mike Ewanciw is now the second signer on WWFRF accounts.

PLEASE SEND YOUR DONATION ALONG WITH THIS FORM

Enclosed is my gift of:

\$5000 \$1000 \$500 \$100 \$50 \$25 \$_____ (Make check payable to WWFRF)

To make a donation by credit card go to: <http://www.networkforgood.org/> and type in "Western Washington Fruit Research Foundation" in the box labeled "charity".

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 Fruit Garden
- To help with Summer Fruit Festival
- On sampling and field days
- By doing work that can be done from my home

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.

Credit cards accepted!

Here's how to donate to WWFRF or renew your membership through Network for Good:

- 1) Go to www.networkforgood.org (we now have a direct link on our website to Network for Good.)
- 2) On the first screen, type 'Western Washington Fruit Research Foundation' in the box labeled 'charity'
- 3) On the second screen click 'donate now'
- 4) On the third screen, type in the amount you wish to give and specify whether this is a one-time or recurring donation. Also, in the box labeled 'designation', please specify whether you are paying membership dues or giving a donation, or giving a donation specified for the demonstration garden.
- 5) The fourth screen gives you the option to change the information you have given. Click 'proceed to checkout'.

- 6) Subsequent screens ask you for your email address, credit card information and other relevant data. You also have the option to add an additional 4.75% of your donation to your total to cover the amount we pay Network for Good for processing.
- 7) You will receive an acknowledgment of your donation by email.
-

Footies for Figs?

By Walt Kropp

There is a bumper crop on our mature desert king fig this year. Unfortunately, there are also raccoons, birds and who knows what else starting to help themselves, as usual. Either they go or the fig trees go. What to do about this?

Our sister in law visiting commented that if the footies protect the apples and pears from critters, why not try them on the figs? We put several dozen leftover footies on the largest ripening figs we could reach. After a week or so, we have harvested about 100 ripe figs. Only one fig so far has had the footie ripped open and the fig partially devoured. Other figs that were not bagged have been eaten. Figs have been knocked down from the tree, of those, only one fig was bagged and was not eaten.

Conclusion? So far the footies seem to be enough of a deterrent to allow most of the figs to be harvested. Only the nylon footies were used. Could you also use the Japanese paper bags?

It would be great if our membership could try this at home, and report the results. Too many people have complained of not being able to harvest their own figs, and figs are too good to waste.

WWFRF Board Meeting
July 10, 2011 2pm – 4:00pm
Held at Cloud Mountain Farm.

Board members present: Kristan Johnson, Bill Davis, Mike Ewanciw, Kim Siebert, Bob Baines, Walter Kropp, Shirley Kropp, Christy Nieto, Jay Scott, Sarah Graham, Sue Williams, Bonnie Swanson
Other members present: Rachel Petrich, JoAnn Alidina.
Special Guests: Carol Miles, Chris Benedict

Introduction to Chris Benedict – Chris has been appointed as WSU Whatcom County extension agent and in the future should be capable of helping to fulfill our needs toward successfully proposing grants for our WWFRF Fruit Research Program in the future. He may give a talk at the next Winter Field Day.

Carol Miles – Carol is mainly involved in vegetable research, but she has some projects in fruit research which are supported by grants – the spotted wing drosophila research in the cherry block which is directed at finding organic controls for SWD, and the apple cider project. They are hoping to receive grants for the high tunnel cherry project now that research has been initiated by Cloud Mountain Farm. There is a grape project that could be

benefited by help from volunteers from WWFRF, if we could provide volunteers.

Summer Fruit Festival – We will not give out \$5 off coupons for admission this year, but we will continue to give food vouchers to volunteers and speakers. We are planning to give Bob Gary and Jacky special t shirts when they are honored for their work with WWFRF.

Nominating Committee – Rachel – Bonnie moved that Sue take over the position of President from July 10th, 2011 till March of 2012. Seconded by Bob. Passed unanimously. Thank you Sue! Georgia Jensen has resigned from the board due to family considerations.

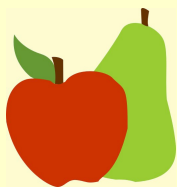
Financial Report – Walt presented the financial report. Addendum 20 is paid. We have a payment of \$2150 due the second half of 2011, and 2 payments due the first half of 2012, which will fulfill our obligations for past research. Less money has been coming in in all areas this year, less membership money and very few donations. With no research to donate to, we are not getting donations for research, and the Fruit Garden still has sufficient funds to operate. A suggestion was made that the newsletter might have requests for donations for specific projects and that if people donated through their employers they might be able to get matching funds. Kristan moved that we accept the Financial report, seconded by Bob. Passed unanimously.

Bylaw Changes – Shirley – The bylaw changes have been filed with the state. The pro-Bono attorney will look at the endowment proposal and our procedures.

Website – The new website will go public on Wednesday the 13th of July. After that we will save the expenses that we have been paying for the old site.

Fruit Garden – There is space in the Fruit Garden where a cherry block could be put in east of the kiwi trellis which would give us cherries for the cherry day in the future, but it is not certain that we have the volunteer support to care for the planting. Volunteer participation in the Fruit Garden has dropped. Christy said that people who had indicated that they would like to work in the Garden would be contacted by phone. Perhaps a once a month Saturday work day can be set up in addition to the Thursday morning work parties.

Direction for WWFRF – We will have a meeting on August 7, from 12 noon to 5:00 pm to decide on our direction for the future.



Apple and Pear Event!

Saturday, October 8th

11:00am



Come hear Dave MacZuga speak on Cider making!
Apple and pear sampling!
Cider sampling!

New Volunteer project for Saturday Volunteers! Fruit Garden Cherry Block Project!

Those members who would like to volunteer in the Fruit Garden, but who work during the week, now have an opportunity to help with our new project. The Fruit Garden Cherry Block will demonstrate a comparison of cherry pruning culture and two cherry rootstocks. The trees will be divided between **Lapins** and **Heartland** cherry and be grafted on the dwarfing rootstocks Gisela 5 and Gisela 7 (which produces a larger fruit and appears to have more winter damage resistance than Gisela 5). The trial may be expanded to include Gisela 3 rootstocks, which makes a very small tree suitable for espalier and small spaces. There will be three rows, and each row will demonstrate a different method of training for cherries: UFO (upright fruiting offshoots), Steep-leader, Open-center (based on the latest information and Tom Thornton's trials). These trees will also provide more cherries for WWFRF's Cherry day event, since the cherries trees we have used in the past are now being used for other research.

The block will be planted over the next 3 years, with 18 trees being planted each year.

De Arbogast will be the leader of this new group, which will meet occasionally as the project develops, and to supplement the work load of the regular Thursday morning volunteer crew. De is the original Fruit Garden manager, and is very enthusiastic about the new Fruit Garden Cherry Block. If you would like to be a part of this group contact De at arbogast@fidalgo.net or check out our website for details of the dates and activities.



Tom Thornton with his cherries.

Top 20 Transcript

Summer Fruit Festival Panel

Bill Davis (BD) *local fruit expert*, Jackie King (JK) *supported fruit research program*, Sam Benowitz (SB) *owner of Raintree Nursery*, Jim Gilbert (JG) *owner of One Green World Nursery*, Bob Norton (BN) *founded the fruit research program*, Gary Moulton (GM) *supported fruit research program*, Kristan Johnson (KJ) *edible landscape designer*.

KJ: If someone were to move here and buy a few acres in the Mount Vernon area, and didn't want to spray, what 20 trees would they plant? One of Gary's quotes is "about 65-70 % of people prefer a tart apple, about 30% prefer a lower acid sweet apple" and it's an excellent comment and we've got people like Sam and Jim, who sell. Would you say that is about the preferred proportion of sweet to tart?

JG: I'd say it reflects that.

SB: Yes.

KJ: And if we start off with talking about tart apples, would you say that the Karmin is one of the best tasting?

GM: You've seen this, Bill, at fruit shows. This is one of the #1 varieties that is gone when people are tasting.

Bill: Well, I used to lead people up and down the tables giving them different types. One person would say "I like Wolf River", but I don't think much of Wolf River, myself, but that's beside the point, and I would work them down the table giving them the Cox's Orange derivatives and finally the last apple I would present them would be the Karmin and I would watch people's expressions go from "ho hum" to "My goodness, where'd you get an apple like this?!" It just explodes, especially if right off the tree when they're almost too tart. They taste best if you let them mellow out for 2 weeks. Then they're just wonderful. The RubINETTE and Holstein and a lot of those that have the Cox's Orange Pippin in them, the Alkemene (a German apple), the Cox's Orange derivatives, they're my favorites because they have a complexity of flavors. (Karmin is also a Cox's derivative. Editor)

KJ: Bob, you like the Holstein's, right?

BN: Yes, because they're scab immune. And have Cox's Orange Pippin heritage. It comes out mid season, it's an easy one to grow.

SB: How would you say Karmin's grow?

BN: Karmin de Sonneville doesn't always set well, it's not as precocious as some of these others, it needs to be stored for I think a month, I wouldn't eat a Karmin before the 1st of November and it's better right around the middle of Nov to Christmas season, that's when it's really good. But if you take it off the tree and bite it takes your head off. And it's homely. If you want one for the kids at the house, Karmin is not one you should have. It's pretty scabby, too.

KJ: Let me ask you about this... when I wrote up this list up some of them have two per line due to space. For instance Pristine vs. William's Pride; who has a comment about this?

JK: I've already been around with this with Bob. I favor Pristine and he disfavors it. Compared to some of the other early yellow apples such as Chehalis, it's what you might call bomb proof in terms of disease resistance. The problem with it is like some of the early apples it tends to drop off and it's not a good storage apple but as the first apple of the season it's quite good. And I'd like to add something that's not on your list. If you want the very first apple of the season go plant a Centennial Crab, it is a sweet crabapple. The one in front of my house yields like crazy and everyone wants to know where to get it. And it's also a natural dwarf and a good pollinizer.

KJ: What did you want to say Bob?

BN: My comment about Pristine is it drops like crazy as soon as it's ripe and it's better than Lodi, Transparent, Ginger Gold is too susceptible to scab so it's better than that one so I don't like it as well as I like William's Pride right off the tree. William's Pride is gorgeous; the kids will like it where they might not like the Pristine because it's got a bit of acid.

KJ: So if you were going to advise somebody and they only had 6 choices, one an early, a mid/Karmin, what about something along the lines of the Red Gravenstein, the Akane, comments?

SB: I like Akane. <Raising of hands>

KJ: Everybody likes Akane.

BN: I like Akane but it goes flat (it's appeal and flavor) after a bit, and doesn't store well. Who in the audience has Akane and what do you think?

From the Audience: Yes, it loses flavor after a couple weeks.

JK: Akane is not a storage apple, or it stores better on the tree. The ones you pick later in the season, usually in interior of tree or on northside, will not be as colorful but will taste just as good. So if you

want to store them, store them on the tree.

From the Audience: Which is a good keeper apple?

Everyone on panel: Melrose.

BN: Melrose is a great keeper, but it's homely and it doesn't really have a great flavor ever, in my opinion. Ok, but not great.

Audience: Another great keeper that I have found is Enterprise.

BN: Right. Again, not a great flavor.

GM: If you're looking for scab immunity you want to look at what Dick said on Enterprise. You gotta look at what your goal is. If you're not going to spray you are confined to some of these disease resistant varieties or build a structure and keep the rain off of them and put them on dwarf rootstocks. If you build a structure you can grow any of these varieties and not have to deal with scab.

JK: Belle de Boskoop is a great keeper and is a great pie apple.

KJ: Do you all like Belle de Boskoop?

Everyone on panel: Yeah, Amen.

Editor's note: This is a highly edited version of the first part of the panel discussion. The entire unedited panel talk will soon be available for viewing on our website.

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

Annual memberships cost \$25/year for Individuals and \$40/year per Family (Parents with their minor children). Membership entitles you to the newsletter, participation at all Field Days/Open Houses and Sample the Harvest Days, at no additional charge; other types of memberships are also available. Visit nwfruit.org to download the membership form OR use the membership form found on page 11 of this newsletter.

The **WWFRF Newsletter** is printed 3x/ year in February, June, and September and mailed 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 \$30.00/ Family (Parents with their minor children) for each event.

- **The Winter Field Day/ Open House** is the first Saturday of March, and consists of hands-on pruning, grafting and budding, talks on insects and pests, scion wood sale, and root stock sale.
- **The Summer Fruit Festival** is the 3rd Saturday of August and covers various topics, some of which may be best fruit varieties for our area, harvest techniques, preservation and storage, orchard mason bees, fertilizer and nutrition, home wine and cider production, cooking tips and of course, fruit tasting and Sample the Harvest from pre-picked fruit.

HARVEST DAYS are free to members, and open to non-members @ \$15/ Individual and \$30.00/ Family (One household only) at **each** event:

- **Sample the Harvest Days** are held in July and October. The following fruit is harvested in season: cherries, 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.

WWFRF would like to thank our commercial members.

Bee Diverse - www.beediverse.com

Beez Neez - www.beezneezapiary.com

Northwoods/One Green World - www.onegreenworld.com

Raintree nursery - www.raintreenursery.com

Skagit Farmers Supply - www.skagitfarmers.com



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: _____

I would prefer to receive email newsletters instead of by regular mail when WWFRF is prepared to send them.

I allow notice of membership meetings to be given to me by email.

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 *(Parents with their minor children)*

_____ \$ _____ FOR **GIFT** MEMBERSHIP FOR: *(Please note for Whom Above)*

_____ \$60 FOR ANNUAL **SUSTAINING** MEMBERSHIP *(Individual or family membership with higher level of financial support)*

_____ \$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**

_____ \$30 FOR **FAMILY One-Day** OPEN HOUSE/FIELD DAY **ONLY** *(Parents with their minor children)*

SIGN ME UP TO HELP WWFRF AS CHECKED BELOW (please check all applicable lines):

_____ FIELD WORK IN THE **WWFRF FRUIT DISPLAY GARDEN**

(usually held every Thursday from 9am-12noon; March-Nov.)

_____ A **FIELD DAY** such as our Winter Field Day , Cherry Day, Summer Fruit Festival or the Apple and Pear Day

_____ **NORTHWEST FLOWER & GARDEN SHOW** in Seattle (usually held in late February every year)

_____ **FRUITBOOTH EVENTS** (Throughout the year)

_____ **SELLING APPLES AT VARIOUS FALL FRUIT SHOWS** (Seattle & Port Townsend)

_____ **BY DOING WORK I CAN DO IN MY OWN HOME USING MY COMPUTER OR TELEPHONE**

_____ **SERVING AS A BOARD MEMBER** (4 meetings a year)

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

**WWFRF
C/O Walter Kropp, Treasurer
29838 Marine View Drive SW
Federal Way, WA 98023**

In This Issue!



Notes from the Fruit Garden!
Top 20 Transcript!
Footies for Figs!

**Check out our wonderful newly revised website at: Nwfruit.org,
where you can see the color version of this newsletter**

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.

Western Washington Fruit Research Foundation (WWFRF)
C/O Walter Kropp
29838 Marine View Dr. SW
Federal Way, WA 98023

**NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S.POSTAGE
PAID
SAM INC**

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Please check your label to see if your membership needs renewing.