



# NW Fruit

Western Washington Fruit Research Foundation  
September, 2018

## President's Message

This is what it's all about. Harvest time in the Fruit Garden.

It's a toss-up for me as to which of my WWFRF membership privileges I value more: learning and working on fruit trees, or enjoying that bag of beautiful Gravensteins that I picked last week.

Gravensteins and Santa Rosa Plums have a very special place in my heart.

In the summer of 1973, I was renting a house in the outskirts of Santa Rosa, California and on the property were two vigorously growing "teenage" Gravensteins and a decrepit old Santa Rosa Plum tree. Having been newly inspired by the Mother Earth News Issue #2 "Back to the Land" issue and learning all that was needed about gardening from the first Whole Earth Catalog, I excavated a 20 x 30 garden planted vegetables, and began acquiring an eclectic collection of hand tools so I would be prepared when the power grid collapsed in the impending social apocalypse.

Soon after, I realized things were not going so well as I watched my first row of onions get sucked into the earth by the ubiquitous and ravenous pocket gophers of northern California. So I turned my attention to the apple trees. They were a tangled mess, untouched for years. I was armed with my freshly sharpened Corona lopper, vintage Corona hand pruner, a brand new Fanno folding pocket saw, and a bruised ego (provided by the gophers). I laid into the trees with enthusiasm, but the result could best be described as mutilation.

I spent the next few days considering the carnage I had wrought and came to the conclusion that I needed to make amends to the Earth Mother for abusing her gifts and vowed to learn to help steward her resources rather than squander them. The following week, I spent three days in the Santa Rosa Public Library reading and taking 60 pages of notes from their entire collection of books on pruning. That fall, I enrolled in the Horticulture program at Santa Rosa Junior College, and thus, a modestly successful career in horticulture was born.

And the plum tree? Several decades earlier, the prune industry dominated northern Sonoma County. By the time I arrived, the "Shothole Borer" and other economic pressures (wine grapes) had pretty much eliminated the commercial prune industry in the area. Numerous abandoned prune orchards dotted the countryside around Santa Rosa. My old borer damaged tree had one of its two leaders split out. I cut it flush and the next year, a new shoot burst forth to (hopefully) create a new scaffold. Of course Santa Rosa is not typically considered a prune plum, but during my last summer at the house I used an old wooden prune drying flat I had found on the property and dried the best prunes I ever tasted.

My sister still lives in Sebastopol, the Gravenstein capital of North America, and my family and I visited her in 2016. I had difficulty locating the address of the old house, but determined that the quarter acre home and 3 surrounding seven acres farms are now mostly shopping malls and parking lots.

Preserve your memories, my friends, sometimes that's all that's left to you.

On a more cheerful note, I am delighted to play a role in preserving our stand of 18 Gravenstein sports, in the WWFRF Fruit Garden.



*Photos by Bob Baines*

Our "Apple and Pear Sample the Harvest" event on October 13th is a great chance to try out the later apples and pears. The event will begin with educational talks and demonstrations about pruning and cider. The apple and pear crops appear to be the best in years.

*Bob Baines, NW Fruit President*

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# Apple and Pear Day

Saturday, October 13<sup>th</sup>,

11:00am – 1:00 pm

**Sample apples and pears!**

**Sample ciders!**

**Pruning demonstration!**

## Volunteer in the Fruit Garden!

Fall is coming and there is still plenty to do in the Fruit Garden. Come on down Thursdays from 9 am to noon and join the Fruit Garden Volunteers. For more information email [info@wwfrf.org](mailto:info@wwfrf.org) .

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## WWFRF Board Meeting

**June 23, 2018**

**2:00 – 4:30 pm**

**At the Snohomish Co-op**

**Approve minutes from 3-3-18 – Kim** – Approved unanimously.

**Membership Report – John or JoeAnne** 142 memberships current.

**Financial Report-** Mike Yearly report needs to be done soon.

**Fruit Garden Report and Issues** – There is a problem with prunings not being removed from under the trees. Tarps could be used to throw the prunings onto and drag away. There has been an extra donation of plant material from Sam Benowitz.

**Board Members** – Richard Hallman has resigned from the BOD due to difficulty making the meetings.

### Events - confirm dates and planning

<b>Anthracnose Workshop</b>	Postponed
<b>Summer Pruning Workshop</b>	Sat August 11, 2018
<b>Volunteer Recognition Lunch</b>	Thurs August 23, 2018
<b>Fall Board Meeting</b>	November
<b>Apple &amp; Pear Sample Day</b>	Sat October 13, 2018
<b>Winter Field Day</b>	Sat March 2, 2019, Peaches & nectarines, apricots. Keynote speaker on soil

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## ***NW Fruit Commercial Members***

***Outdoor by design*** – custom landscape design, installation and maintenance–

## **Board Meeting November 17, 2018**

**1 – 4:30 pm**

In the meeting room on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Skagit Valley Food Co-op

# Fruit Garden News

The Volunteer Appreciation Day went well again this year; thanks to the help from Hazel Sittner who organized things, Bob Bains who cooked the ribs, Larry Crumb who picked fruit from the Fruit Garden to make his pies, and others. We were very thankful the wildfire smoke cleared, but some of us were unprepared for the cool breeze. This celebration is a heartfelt appreciation of all of the truly great work our volunteers do all year round, and it keeps getting better every year!



*Photo by Tom Wake*

We have put up some "No Spray" signs in the Northeast section of the Fruit Garden and we have appropriately painted those trees with a new white color coded band to clearly delineate those plants. The signs also have a QR Code for more info about the no spray techniques we are using, such as the Footies, Bee Netting, Soil Enhancements, etc.

We are very fortunate to have possibly the most complete Gravenstein apple variety collections anywhere. These 28 trees were collected from around the world, and are grafted using the very dwarfing M-27 rootstock.

Unfortunately, these trees have been affected by Anthracnose. We are investigating ways to help these trees regain their health so that we can preserve the collection. We will keep our membership apprised of our process as we explore various options. Meanwhile, Fruit Garden Volunteer Eldon Vincent is putting together a photographic data base (many thanks!) to create a benchmark of existing Anthracnose lesions and photos of the individual apple varieties for some new signs. These signs will properly label each tree and include a photo of the apple it produces (they range from green to red, with some having stripes!). As with our other signs, they will include QR code links to our main website for more information.

As part of our efforts to grow apples so that they are easily covered with a single width of 17' wide bee net (to keep out the codling moth and apple maggot) we are growing up some very dwarf M-27 & B-9 rootstocks for future grafting. These will be planted along our West espalier. Thanks to Ned Garvey for

his diligent work planting and maintaining the Nursery.

It seems like we are turning the corner on some of the irrigation issues thanks to Richard Fairfield, and we can always use more volunteers who want to learn and help with the drip irrigation.

Please come volunteer on Thursdays 9-12 to learn and experience the thrill of Fruit Gardening and the friendship of great volunteers!

Hope to see you there,  
Kristan

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**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: [NWFruit.org](http://NWFruit.org) and click on support.**

Please designate my monetary gift toward:  Where it is needed most!  
 Fruit Garden

I would like to volunteer!  In the Fruit Garden  
 At the Winter Field Day  
 On sampling 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: **WWFRF**  
**C/O Joanne Hilgart, Membership**  
**6160 Everson Goshen Rd**  
**Everson, WA 98247-9766**

## 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, which has a snail mail version in February, and email only in June and September, 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](http://nwfruit.org) to download the membership form OR use the membership form found in this newsletter.

The **WWFRF Newsletter** is printed in February, and sent email in June and September with hard copies sent to members without email.

- **FIELD DAYS/ OPEN HOUSES and WORKSHOPS** 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.
- **Several workshop days** are offered each year, sometimes with fruit sampling, depending on the season.
- **The Apple and Pear Sample the Harvest Day** is usually the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday in October, but check your September newsletter for changes due to warm weather.

## Apple and Pear Day October 13, 2018!

Don't miss it!



A bark graft buds out in the Fruit Garden



## Western Washington Fruit Research Foundation Membership Form

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ 9-DIGIT ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_  
TELEPHONE: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

Please check all applicable lines to designate type of membership and/or extra donation:

- \_\_\_\_\_ \$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 **GENERAL FUND FRUIT GARDEN**

I would like to volunteer to help as follows (please check all applicable lines):

- \_\_\_\_\_ FIELD WORK IN THE **FRUIT DISPLAY GARDEN** *(usually held every Thursday from 9am-12noon; March-Nov.)*  
\_\_\_\_\_ HELP AT THE **WINTER FIELD DAY** *(1st Saturday in March)*  
\_\_\_\_\_ **BY DOING WORK I CAN DO IN MY OWN HOME USING MY COMPUTER OR TELEPHONE**

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

**NW Fruit (WWFRF)  
C/O Joanne Hilgart, Membership  
6160 Everson Goshen Rd  
Everson, WA 98247-9766**



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Everson, WA 98247-9766

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



**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.**