



Western Washington Fruit Research Foundation

June, 2017

President's Message

As we come into the summer season I am happy to announce that we will be having a workshop on August 5th covering many aspects of summer pruning of apples, pears and stone fruit, both freestanding and espalier. There will be opportunities to practice under the tutelage of experienced pruners after the demonstrations so I hope to see you there.

After 15 years the east espalier posts in the Fruit Garden are becoming unstable so we may be replacing them this year with larger posts for longer lasting stability.

Be sure to check out the article on page 4 about our trial of a new method to inhibit apple maggots and codling moths.



Reville blueberry has beautiful flowers

Kim Siebert, President

IN THIS ISSUE:

President's Message	1
Welding Volunteer Opportunity.....	2
Summer Pruning Event	3
A New Approach to Apple Maggot Control	4
Donation Form	5
Board Meeting Minutes	6
Membership Form	8

Check out our website at NW Fruit.org!

Fun in the Fruit Garden

Fruit Garden volunteers have many learning opportunities in the Garden. Join the volunteers Thursday mornings at 9:00 am in the Garden for fun, friends, learning, and the opportunity to serve your community.



If you would like to volunteer in the Fruit Garden contact Tom Wake at info@wwfrf.org or just show up at the garden at 16650 SR 536, Mount Vernon, WA, on Thursday mornings at 9 am. (Come to the sheds at the south end of the Garden.)

Volunteer opportunity for someone with welding skills



If you have welding skills and would be interested in constructing a steel donation box similar to the one pictured (you can see it in the Discovery Garden at Mount Vernon next to our Fruit Garden) please contact us at info@wwfrf.org for more details. NW Fruit (WWFRF) will pay for all materials.

Workshop

Summer Pruning of Espalier and Freestanding Fruit Trees!

Saturday, August 5th, 10:00 - 2:00 pm
\$15 for non-members (free to WWFRF members)

We are pleased to announce our Summer Workshop – Summer Pruning of Espalier and Freestanding Fruit Trees.



These pear trees are ready for some summer pruning.

Bring your pruners and come to our workshop for some teaching and hands-on experience pruning. There will be a demonstration on summer pruning of apples and pears and another on pruning espalier. A tour of the Fruit Garden will also take place. Those who wish to get some hands-on experience under the guidance of experts can remain to help prune our espalier.

Registration will begin at 9:45 am.

10:00 to 10:10	Who we are and Field Day orientation
10:15 to 12:00	Espalier pruning followed by mentored pruning training of east pear espalier
12:00 to 12:30	Lunch & chat <i>Bring your own lunch.</i>
12:30 to 2:00	Freestanding Summer Pruning Principles and Technique demonstration with main focus on stone fruit (plums and peaches).
2:00 to 3:00	Fruit Garden tour

A New Approach to Apple Maggot Control

We've begun a new trial in the Fruit Garden this late spring using a finely meshed "Bug Screening" to resist Apple Maggot and Coddling Moth infestation in some particularly susceptible apple trees (note that this mesh is not fine enough to effectively thwart spotted wing drosophila). The volunteers did an excellent job, and everyone was surprised that the application went so smoothly, generally easier than the larger meshed bird netting because there was very little "snagging" due to the tight weave of the "Bug Screening".

In this year's trial we applied "Bug Screening" to 2 Karmijn De Sonnaville and 1 Rubinette apple trees. These trees are considered some of the best tasting apples we grow, but also are "insect magnets" which spoil their harvests. The Rubinette also is very susceptible to scab, so we hope to learn how much the reduced air flow of the "Bug Screening" might increase the overall scab susceptibility. In the trial involving the 2 Karmijn De Sonnaville trees, we are exploring whether fully encapsulating tree is necessary, or



The netting was applied with the help of poles made of PVC.

if we can just apply it like an umbrella, without closure at the bottom. There is speculation that the umbrella method is enough to disrupt the Apple Maggot and Coddling Moth infestation, and would allow greater air flow and predator insects to interact with the trees in the summer season. We decided to also apply netting to the Honey Crisp apples in the "Belgian Fence" espalier. Although we applied this "Bug Screening" a couple of weeks later, it will allow us to evaluate the ease of using this system on future espaliers.

We waited until we could effectively thin the excess fruit set off of the trees before applying the "Bug Screening". Next year we plan to expand the trial to include some trees being covered as soon as the pollination is finished, then pull it off for thinning, and reapply it afterwards. We are trying to prevent any "Bug Screening" applications from interfering with our mowing maintenance.

The focus of this year's trial was to become familiar with the product. We purchased 3 bags of "Bug Screening" for \$100 each. Each bag provided a 40' x 17' sheet made up of two 40' x 8.5' strips sewn together lengthwise with zip-ties every 12 inches. Each sheet, when cut into two 20' x 17' sheets, covers two medium sized trees, thus costing \$50 per tree. We may be able to reduce that cost in the future.

We plan to initiate a program of *summer pruning* on many of our most susceptible fruit trees. We will remove errant limbs, etc. and shape the trees so that they are more easily covered with the “Bug Screening”.

Our efforts to be proactive in addressing the increasingly invasive insect infestations on our fruit trees will help us design and maintain a better system for the home gardener. Toward this effort we have grafted up 10 more Karmijn De Sonnaville apple trees on very dwarfing rootstock (Bud 9 and M 27) to be planted along our west espalier, with the intent that the entire planting will be encapsulated by “Bug Screening” in the future.

If you have any ideas, please let me know at info@wwfrf.org.

Kristan

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 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: **NW Fruit**
C/O John Valentine, Membership
811 North 1 st
Tacoma, WA 98403-2013

NW Fruit Board Meeting
Feb 5th, 2017 2:45 pm – 4:30 pm
Shoreline Library
Seattle

Board members attending: Kim Siebert, Bob Baines, Jay Scott, Mike Ewanciw

Board members online: JoeAnne Hilgart, John Valentine, Ira Collins, Sam Benowitz, Kristan Johnson, Randy Lee

A quorum was present for the entire meeting (10 members present)

Minutes of last meeting (November 5, 2016) read and approved

Outreach Committee Report – Bob

Financial Report – Mike

Membership Report – John

How can we draw more people into the Board of Directors?

Mike will contact Matt/Maria (City Fruit)

Randy, Jay, Mike, Kristan, Bob, and Tom are on the **Workshop Committee**

Moved to May Meeting:

Review of:

Purpose

Mission Statement

Vision Statement

Goals

Where are we going as an organization?

Motions:

1. Mike motioned that we donate \$100 towards a presentation to be given by Lee Reich in Woodinville on February 23rd. Seconded by Bob. Passes unanimously.
2. Kristan motioned that we allocate up to \$500.00 for implementing a trial to determine the effectiveness of screening to deter pests from attacking the Karmijn de Sonnaville apple trees in the fruit garden. Mike seconded. Passes unanimously.
3. Kristan motioned that we allocate up to \$250.00 for new and replacement plants for the Fruit Garden. Randy seconded. Passed unanimously except for Sam who abstained.

NW Fruit Annual General Membership Meeting followed by the Annual Board meeting
March 4, 2017
Held at the Winter Field Day

12:30 pm – 1:00 pm

Main Auditorium - WWFRF, Mt Vernon

Membership Report – John Valentine

Treasurer Report – Mike Ewanciw

Motion: Bob Baines nominated Richard Hallman (UBC Garden consultant) to be a board member.
Seconded by Mike Ewanciw. Passed unanimously.

The following were re-elected and unanimously passed as members of the board:

Bob Baines

Ira Collins

Mike Ewanciw

JoeAnne Hilgart

Kristan Johnson

Randy Lee

NW Fruit Board Meeting

Board members attending:

Bob Baines, Sam Benowitz, Ira Collins, Mike Ewanciw, Richard Hallman, JoeAnne Hilgart, Kristan Johnson, Jay Scott, Kim Siebert, John Valentine

A quorum was present for the entire meeting (10 members present)

The slate of officers was elected and passed unanimously as follows:

President - Kim Siebert

Vice President - Bob Baines

Recording/ Corresponding Secretary -

JoeAnne Hilgart

Coordinating Secretary - Ira Collins

Treasurer - Mike Ewanciw

**You could do this too! Join the
Fruit Garden Volunteers!**





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 **WWFRF FRUIT DISPLAY GARDEN**
(usually held every Thursday from 9am-12noon; all year except Christmas and January.)

_____ 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
C/O John Valentine, Membership
811 North 1 st
Tacoma, WA 98403-2013

NW Fruit (Western Washington Fruit Research Foundation)

C/O John Valentine, Membership

811 North 1 st

Tacoma, WA 98403-2013

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



In This Issue

Apple Maggot Netting!
Summer Pruning Workshop!

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.