



NW Fruit

Western Washington Fruit Research Foundation
February, 2019

President's Message

Bob Baines, NW Fruit President

In our last newsletter, I shared my affinity for Gravenstein apples. It seems that last year was the "year of the Gravensteins" in our Fruit Garden. I spent several work party sessions leading an aggressive spur and fruit thinning program on the 28 trees representing 18 different Gravenstein sports (*genetic variations*). We applied about a hundred nylon maggot barriers as we thinned. The trees were sprayed for scab and insect pests and watered during the growing season. We were rewarded with large crop of big, beautiful, nearly pest free apples. I was able to make some sample batches of applesauce through September and early October and they turned out great! Yes, October is pretty late for Gravenstein, but the 'Fall Pippin' sport at the east end of the row still had very nice fruit in early October.

There was a lot of interest in the Gravs among our volunteers and we decided to do a taste test to take advantage our unique collection and productive crop. Be sure to see the coming June issue of the newsletter to see the results.

Hope to see you at our Winter Field Day on Saturday March 2nd. We have a great lineup of speakers, a wonderful opportunity to take home your favorite variety grafted to your most appropriate rootstock, and excellent field sessions on pruning and soils.

Bob Baines



Bob thinning the Gravenstein apples.

IN THIS ISSUE:

President's Message	1
Volunteer Opportunities	2
Rootstock List for Winter Field Day	2
Winter Field Day	3
Scionwood List for Winter Field Day.....	4
Fruit Garden Update.....	5
Avian Observations in the Fruit Garden	6
New Fruit Garden Inventory System	7
Donation Form	8
Board Meeting Minutes	8
Announcement of General Membership Meeting.....	10
Membership Form	11

Volunteer!

We need volunteers to help at the **Winter Field Day**. Shifts are 1-2 hours and there are a variety of tasks, such as helping in the scionwood or rootstock areas or helping with setup or cleanup.

You can also volunteer by serving on the **Board of Directors** or by helping to **update the Website**.

For more information mail: info@wwfrf.org



You could help with the rootstocks at the Winter Field Day.

Rootstocks available at the Winter Field Day

Initially there will be a limit of 4 rootstocks of each variety per person. Later in the afternoon you may buy more of a particular variety after everyone has had a chance to buy some. Available varieties are:

Apple, from smallest to largest: EMLA 27, BUDAGOVSKY 9, EMLA 26, EMLA 7, **Geneva 222 (New this year!)**

Plum: MARIANNA 2624

Pear: OHxF 87, QUINCE BA29C (much more dwarfing than OHxF 333, but you must graft an interstem (Comice works well) for many European pears).

Cherry: KRYMSK 5, **Gisela 6 (New this year!)**



Pear buds on the espalier are waiting for spring.

Have you renewed your membership yet?

NW Fruit membership is valid for 12 months from the date your check is received. Your membership expiration date is printed above your name on the mailing label indicating the month and year that your membership expires. Renew your membership before it expires by completing the Membership Form and mailing it in. You can also renew online. (see credit cards on page 6)

Winter Field Day / Open House: March 2, 2019

Western Washington Fruit Research Foundation
in cooperation with



Washington State University, Northwest Washington Research and Extension Center
16650 State Route 536, Mount Vernon, WA 98273

8:30 AM and after: Registration—All members & non-members must first register & pay

*Admission Free for NW Fruit Members: Included in annual dues
Admission Fee for Non-Members: \$15.00/ Individual; \$30.00/ Family
(Parents with non-adult children only); Caregivers free admission with paid client*

West Room

8:30 – 1:00 PM Rootstock and Scionwood Sales
9:00 – 1:30 PM Grafting of Purchased Scions & Rootstock)

Workshops, Lectures and Panels

Auditorium

8:50 – 9:00 AM WWFRF accomplishments (Bob Baines)
9:00 – 9:10 AM Bee Netting Trials (Kristan Johnson)
9:10 – 9:25 AM NWREC Fruit Tree Trials Update (Travis Alexander)
9:25 – 9:55 AM Bug Issues Update (Beverly Gerdeman)
10:00 – 11:00 AM Partners: Mycorrhizal Fungi, Bacteris, Plants (Dr. David R. Montgomery)
11:00 – 11:55 AM Panel: *Healthy Soil Management* (David Montgomery, Peter Jackson, Doug Collins, Deirdre Griffin, Gabe LaHue, moderator Kristan Johnson)

Lunch and Social Time

12:00 – 12:30 PM, Auditorium (Please bring your own lunch & beverage)

Annual Business Meeting

All members are encouraged to attend
12:30 – 1:30 PM, Auditorium (Election of Board Members)
Followed by the Board Meeting to elect officers

Auditorium

1:30 – 2:30 PM Easiest Fruit Trees to Grow Here (Kristan Johnson)

Demonstrations in the Fruit Garden

All Day Take a self-guided Fruit Garden Tour following the signs
1:30 – 2:20 PM Korean Natural Farming & Biorizal Soil Enhancements (Peter Jackson)
1:30 – 2:20 PM Fruit Garden Tour (Tom Wake, Fruit Garden Manager)
2:30 – 3:20 PM Pruning Demonstration in the Fruit Garden (Mike McWilliams)
2:30 – 3:20 PM Soil Carbon Sequestration (Doug Collins, Deirdre Griffin, Gabe LaHue)

Scion wood available at the Winter Field Day

Apples

Akane
 Alkmene
 Almata
 Ananas Reinette
 Arkansas Black
 Ashmead's Kernel
 Belle de Boskoop
 Ben Davis
 Beni Shogun
 Blue Pearmain
 Braeburn, Hillwell
 Bramley
 Elstar, Daliest
 Enterprise
 Esopus Spitzenberg
 Golden Russet
 Grand Alexander
 Gravenstein
 Hatsuaki
 Holstein
 Honeycrisp
 Hudson's Golden Gem
 Jonagold
 Jonagold, DeCoster
 Karmijn
 King
 Liberty
 Melrose
 Mother
 Newtown Pippin
 Northern Spy
 Pristine
 Puget Spice (crab)
 Roxbury Russet
 RubINETTE
 Shay
 Silken
 Spartan
 Tsgaru, Homei
 Twenty Ounce

White Winter Pearmain
 Wagener
 Wealthy
 Westfield S-no-F
 Williams Pride
 Winesap
 Winter Banana
 Wolf River
 Yellow Bellflower

Crab Apples

Centennial
 Evereste
Cider Apples
 Graniwinkle
 Harrison
 Kingston Black
 Michelin

Pear

Abbe Fetal
 Atlantic Queen
 Bella de Guigno
 Blake's Pride
 Bosc
 Clapp's Favorite
 Comice
 Concorde
 Conference
 Highland
 Orcas
 Russetted Comice
 Spalding
 Starkrimson
 Suij

Asian Pear

Atago
 Chojuro
 Hamese
 Ichiban Nashi
 Mishirasu
 Shinseiki

Cherry

Anderson
 Angela
 Bing
 Black Gold
 Danube
 Early Burlat
 Emperor Francis
 Glacier
 Governor Wood
 Hartland
 Hudson
 Kristin
 Lapins
 Montmorency
 Nugent
 Rainier
 Rio
 Starletta (or Scarletta)
 Schneider
 Selah
 Skeena
 Surefire
 Sweetheart
 White Gold

Plum

Beauty
 Blues Jam
 Coe's Golden Drop
 Early Golden
 Early Laxton
 Hollywood
 Imperial Epineuse
 Kuban Comet
 Long John
 Methley
 Mirabelle, Geneva
 Mt. Royal
 Seneca
 Shiro
 Valor
 Obilnaya
 Victoria
 Victory
 Cambridge Gage

Shipova (pear cross)

Quince

Aromatnaya

Peach

Betty



Scionwood sales at the Winter Field Day

Fruit Garden update 2019

It certainly has been interesting and “fruitful” working with all of the fun-loving volunteers in the Fruit Garden this year! Although I don’t get to participate as often as I’d like to (partly because of the time and expense of taking ferries), when I’m there the volunteers are like bees humming along together getting things done. And what things are getting done!

We had an in-depth review of our our collection of 18 Gravenstein varieties, had a couple of apple tastings (*be sure to look for the results in our June newsletter*), and photographed several apples in preparation for making some new signs.

The *Fruit Garden Inventory* is a new system that Mike McWilliams and Kim Siebert have been working on which has taken lots of energy, but how appreciative we all are that they have been doing such a thorough job, Kudos! (see page 7)

The expansion of the *Bee-Netting* trials to keep out the *Codling Moth* and the *Apple Maggot* have been exceedingly positive, allowing us to resume selling some cases of the most sought after apples after a hiatus due to bug infestation. We are grafting up and planting more “mini espaliers” which can be easily covered with a single length of bee-net—the process will not require ladders and is super easy for homeowners to do by themselves!

We are experimenting with bee-netting so that we can cover the apple trees early on during their pollination cycle, thus disrupting over-pollination and the need for labor intensive thinning of the apples. It’s going to be tricky, but we’ll see. Larry Crum is heading up that effort.



Volunteers placing bee-netting on an apple tree

The “slender-spindle” display is being replanted with the new WSU Cosmic Crisp apple introduction, as the earlier attempt using Honey Crisp on M 27 had some “stunting” issues. We are also using Comic Crisp apples for one of our new mini-espaliers, grafted onto both M 27 and Bud 9. So far, in the very earliest trials, Cosmic Crisp looks like its producing well here on the west side of the mountains.

If you are interested in learning to grow cherries, we are looking for volunteers to help prune and maintain the various training methods **displayed** at the Fruit Garden. We are also experimenting with new types of bird net applications on the cherries, thanks to James Most.

We’re looking forward to seeing you in the Fruit Garden soon!

Kristan

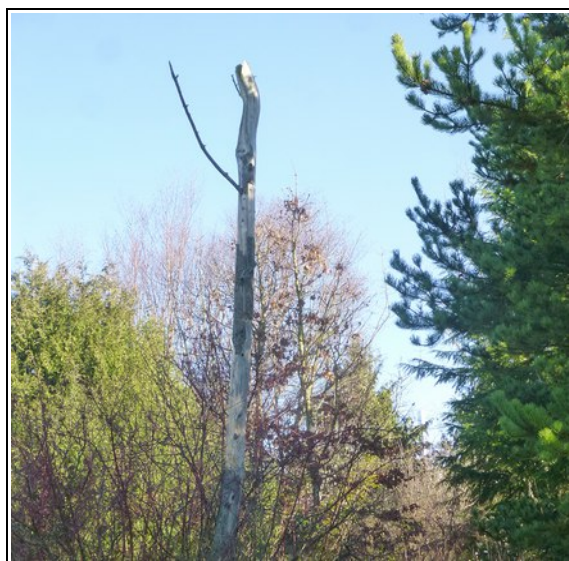
Avian Observations in the Fruit Garden

By Jay Scott

Our Fruit Garden is an excellent place to observe fruit. Many people may not be aware that it is also an excellent place to observe birds. A visitor may be startled by the sound of honking snow geese or trumpeter swans passing overhead at startlingly close range. Still looking skyward, various hawk species or eagles are frequently seen. I have even seen migrating turkey vultures soaring in the upper altitudes while I was working in the Fruit Garden.

A visitor to our Fruit Garden may notice the 2 tall poles erected on the west fence. I use the term "*raptor attracter*" for them. A few years ago the garden suffered a spike in the vole population. These native, burrowing mammals were gnawing lower bark and roots of our trees sometimes killing the tree. Raptor perches were installed on the poles before erection and the next day two bald eagles were snuggled shoulder to shoulder on one of the perches. What I thought was sturdy construction was inadequate for the weight of two eagles and eventually the perches fell off. Birds still roost on the bare tops of the poles. Sometime I may lower the poles and rebuild the perches but there always seems to be a more urgent task to do in the garden.

A *raptor attracter* of a different design was installed in the adjacent native plant garden. That garden was suffering the same effects from voles and rabbits as ours was. This pole was intended to be a more natural appearing tree snag. Due to transport limitations of the pole, all the branches had to be trimmed. Once on site but before erection, holes were bored in the trunk and branches were reinstalled with wood glue. Now, an astute botanist may notice it is a hemlock snag with Douglas fir branches. I don't think the birds



A truly native raptor attracter



mind too much. Thanks to Fred Hodge for his equipment and expertise in transporting all the poles.

A visitor to the fruit garden may notice the bird nets covering blueberry bushes and cherry trees. Our annual installation is an effective barrier against crows, robins, and starlings, which are just as fond of the fruit as we are.

About once a year I find an owl pellet in the garden. Close examination reveals a tidy compaction of bones and hair or feathers. See photo to the left.

Every year bird nests are found. When occupied we avoid disturbing the nest. Most of these residents are beneficial for our fruit garden and are delightful to monitor.

In the Spring hummingbirds flit around us as we do garden tasks. They are usually heard first then noticed in the vicinity of a tree with pink/red blossoms. They may be doing some pollination for us. Last year and late in the season after blossoms were gone, I noticed a different activity. On a tree with especially bright red apples the crows and starlings had pecked holes in the upper half of some hanging fruit. Fruit juice had accumulated in these cavities. The hummingbirds were competing for this juice.

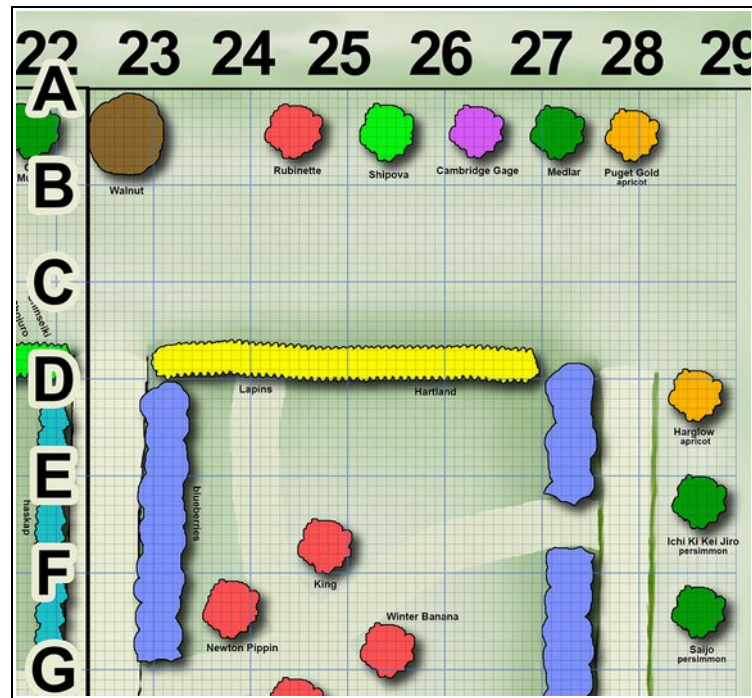


Hummingbird nest found in the Fruit Garden

New Fruit Garden Inventory System

A big thank you goes to Mike McWilliams for his work on creating our new Fruit Garden inventory system. Each freestanding tree now has been assigned a location number based on a grid mapping system that will make it easier for people to locate trees in the Fruit Garden. The east kiosk will be updated with a new map which shows the large main grid and the volunteers will have notebooks with section maps showing the main grid with a smaller sub grid with exact locations. Kim Siebert also worked on updating the map. A part of one of the section maps is shown to the right.

The new inventory system database will make tracking all plants and keeping and organizing data on present and past plants much easier.



Can you figure out which tree is located at D.2-28.6?

NW Fruit Commercial Members

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

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
 WSU sponsored research
 Sampling and Field Days

I would like to volunteer! In the Display Garden
 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: WWFRF
C/O Joanne Hilgart, Membership
6160 Everson Goshen Rd
Everson, WA 98247-9766

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

WWFRF Board Meeting

Nov 17, 2018

1:00 – 4:30 pm

At the Skagit Co-op

Board members present: Bob, Jay, Mike, Kim, Peter

Online – Sam, Kristan, Joanne

A quorum was present the entire meeting.

Read minutes from 6/23/2018 – read by Kim – Jay motioned that the minutes be approved. Seconded by Mike. Passed unanimously.

Membership Report – Joanne – We currently have 111 members, down from 142 in June. At the Apple and Pear day we had 1 individual and 6 families join and 11 individuals and 7 families

renew. We also had 15 individuals and 6 families purchase day passes. 9 current members also attended.

Fruit Garden Report and Issues:

Signs for individual Gravenstein apple trees, etc. - Kristan motioned that \$800 be allocated for signs for the Gravenstein collection and for other signs in the Fruit Garden including updating the map of the Fruit Garden on the east kiosk. Kim seconded. Passed unanimously.

Training for Fruit Garden Volunteers – Bob Baines to take the City Fruit Master Fruit Steward training. The Fruit Garden training budget will pay for ½ of the cost of the training up to \$150. This money for training is already allocated in the training budget. Bob will be able to use what he learns to help us develop our volunteer training program. (*Editor's note: Bob was not able to take the training, See below*)

Winter Field Day, Sat March 2, 2019 – Mike is the coordinator. Kristan is working out the details for the speakers. Mike will talk with Laurie Jansen to see if she will be able to do the scion wood.

Budget for 2019 – Mike went over the budget and made changes based on the comments. Kim motioned that we passed the budget for 2019 as amended. Seconded by Peter. Passed unanimously.

Next board meeting – We will have a retreat meeting in January to talk about the grid system for locating and documenting plants in the Fruit Garden and to talk about strategies to increase membership in addition to our regular agenda items. (This meeting will take the place of the usual February meeting.)

Mike motioned that we adjourn at 2:50 pm, seconded by Jay. Passed unanimously.

WWFRF Retreat Board Meeting

Jan 12, 2019

11:00 – 4:30 pm

At Kim Siebert's home

Board members present: Bob, Kristan, Jay, Kim, Peter, Sam, Ira

Guest attendees: Tom Wake, Mike McWilliams

A quorum was present the whole meeting.

Read minutes from 11/17/2018 – **Kim** – Kim read the minutes from the meeting on November 17, 2018. Bob said that he was unable to take the City Fruit Master Fruit Steward training because City Fruit said that he had too much knowledge and should be teaching the class rather than being a student.

Kristan motioned that we approve the minutes, seconded by Bob. Passed unanimously.

Membership Report – **Joanne** – Joanne not present due to illness.

Financial Report – The 2018 Financial Report was looked at and it was noticed that the Handout/Supplies category for the WFD was over the budget (\$551 instead of \$400). Kim will contact Mike to see why this was and to see if amount allotted in the budget for 2019 needs to be changed.

Training and outreach for Fruit Garden Volunteers – Bob Baines and/or Mike McWilliams – Mike is being added as a member of the Volunteer Training & Outreach committee. This committee now consists of Bob, Peter, Bill Davis, Kim and Mike.

Winter Field Day, Sat March 2, 2019 – Ira has reserved the rooms but needs to find out if we have enough insurance for the new insurance policy of WSU or if we can get an exemption. There was a problem with cleanup last year – the floor finish was damaged. We need to have someone in charge of cleanup that does not have any other responsibilities at that time. Kim to add breakdown instructions to the protocol for area so that persons moving tables from their own area will not scratch the floor.

Publicity: Mike McWilliams will send out some online advertisements. Kim to send him the information about our Facebook page. Kim will contact Mike Ewanciw to see if he will be able to notify newspapers. Kristan to contact Jeramy Cooper to see if he will post online about the event. Ira to contact Cloud Mountain Farm to see if they will promote the WFD.

Sam to buy Facebook ads and to put handouts at the Raintree table at the Flower & Garden show. Ira to send an email to see if any volunteers would like to do shifts at the table to help promote the event.

Kim will try to take photos and videos at the WFD this year to make a short video to promote the event in future years.

Jay requested to be free from the rootstock area during the lectures because he has not been able to attend in past years due to not having enough help in the rootstock area.

Increasing Membership - Mike McWilliams will make a survey for the Greeters to ask people attending the WFD about how they heard about the events so that we can improve advertising.

Update on Grid System for Locating and Documenting plants – Mike showed the section maps and printout from the new database for the inventory for the Fruit Garden.

Should we move to digital records? - Kim mentioned that she and Mike had done some exploring with editing documents on Google Drive and we may be able to move to using Google drive as a place to keep records digitally rather than keeping paper records as we have in the past. Kim will check with Shirley Kropp to see what legal issues are involved if any.

Educational Events for the year – Bob suggested that we do a series of once a month training events both for our volunteers and for the public on Thursdays after lunch. The 1st Thursday of May will be a class on thinning and the 1st Thursday of June will be on netting.

March 3rd General Membership meeting agenda

Followed by the Board meeting

- 12:30 – Financial Report – Mike Ewanciw**
- 12:40 – Report from the Fruit Garden Committee**
- 12:50 – Other Committee Reports (membership)**
- 1:00 –1:15 – Nomination and vote for board members**

Board Meeting

- 1:20 – Nomination of Officers – Vote**
-

**Western Washington Fruit Research Foundation (NW Fruit)
Membership Form**

Please check one box ONLY: Renewal New Member

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; Jan-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**

Western Washington Fruit Research Foundation (NW Fruit)
C/O Joanne Hilgart, Membership
6160 Everson Goshen Rd
Everson, WA 98247-9766

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

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

Winter Field Day!
Notes from the Fruit Garden!
Birds in the Fruit Garden!

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.