



## President's Message

*Bob Baines, NW Fruit President*

It's been a year of promise and increased activity in the organization this year. A number of our volunteers (and of course we're all volunteers) have taken on new projects that have strengthened our organization and improved our Fruit Garden. We have seen an increase in volunteer work party attendance this past year. I think it's clear that the added opportunity and activity increases participation and the added participants result in more productive activity. I'll list the ones that quickly come to mind along with apologies for ones I've missed – a lot happens around here that I don't know about.

- Replacement of the Kiwi Trellis and plans to replace the seasonal blueberry enclosures.
- Repairs to the East Espalier structure
- Ongoing update and digitizing of Fruit Garden inventory records and maps
- Development and maintenance of a "Sustainable Fruit Tree Practices" zone
- Continued and expanded protection of apples from codling moth and apple maggot with insect exclusion netting
- New monthly Saturday training/work parties
- Management of the tree nursery
- Planning and preparation for modification and additions to the design elements to the Fruit Garden
- Continued topwork grafting to add new varieties to our collection
- Comprehensive maintenance of the irrigation system
- Continued presentation of excellent successful public education events
- Establishment of focused interest teams providing enhanced inspection and maintenance of specific garden elements
- Addition of several new faces to our board of directors and officers who have taken on more active roles and voices in leading the organization. So many volunteer organizations lament the fact that it's the same old folks doing all the stuff. The last couple of years, we have added interested people who are clearly invigorating the organization.

As I've shared with many of you on numerous occasions, my view of being a volunteer is that you should figure out what you like to do and do that as much as possible. For me, it's always been about pruning and planning. More than half of my NW Fruit time is devoted to those activities. But not everyone who helps the Fruit Garden is actually working with pruning and direct work in the Garden. Two people in particular have devoted a major proportion of the life's time and efforts to the support of NW Fruit and continue to remain immersed in many details of our ongoing activities on a nearly daily basis.

Kristan Johnson, the designer of Fruit Garden, continues to participate and guide decisions about management

and evolution of the Garden. He also remains actively involved in researching and implementing practices for growing fruit successfully in our Garden. In many ways, he is the rudder that keeps the Garden on a sustainable course.

Kim Siebert continues to be the mortar that holds the organization together. After 10 years of my involvement, I continue to learn about important work she is doing that I was not aware of. Since relinquishing the organizational presidency in 2018, she continues to perform many of the more important and unrewarding presidential task that are outside my knowledge, expertise, and interest. That, in addition to her roles as secretary, newsletter editor, WFD volunteer coordinator, graphics maven, and historical touchstone gives you an idea of her inestimable value to NW Fruit.

So a heartfelt and hardy THANK YOU to these two former presidents as well as all the other folks who have contributed to our organization over the years.

Back to the Fruit Garden! In the previous newsletter, September 2019, seeing San Jose Scale on a couple of trees in the middle of the Gravenstein row. Well, it's waaay worse than that. This fall we discovered a very heavy infestation of Oystershell Scale on the Honeycrisp espalier. This led to formation of a "Scale Team" who did a comprehensive inspection of the Garden and found this pest in numerous locations. We are currently discussing and planning our response. Here are WSU publications describing the two kinds of "armored" scale.

[Oystershell scale](#)

[San Jose scale](#)

I hope you will be joining us at our annual Winter Field Day on Saturday March 7, 2020. More details can be found inside this newsletter.

I'm very enthusiastic about this year's event because I personally find our topics to be timely and exciting.

- We will be hearing from Dr. Kate Evans (by telecommunication) from the fruit breeding program at WSU about the development of the Cosmic Crisp apple. Perhaps you've heard of it. Come and taste one.
- Our local fruit expert panel this year will be discussing Dwarf Apple Culture & Training
- Hear details and results from our insect exclusion netting for management of apple maggot and codling moth.



Dwarf apple trees can be easily netted.

Till next time,

Bob Baines President WWFRF

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# 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](mailto: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 3 rootstocks of each variety per person. After 12 pm 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 (Around 6') Needs to be supported.

Bud 9 (6-10') Needs to be supported.

Geneva 222 ( 8-12')

EMLA 26 (11-16')

MM 111 (17-24') About 75 to 80% of standard size.

*Some growers like to graft a Bud 9 interstem on to MM111 to make a very well rooted dwarf rootstock.*

**Plum:** Marianna 2624 A semi dwarf rootstock making a tree about 15 feet tall, more or less, depending on variety grafted. It is compatible with plums, apricots and almonds. It is compatible with peaches, however peaches rarely succeed when grafted in winter and are usually summer budded on the rootstock.

**Pear:** Old Home X Farmingdale (OHxF 87) (15-20 '). Somewhat dwarfing and also promotes early and heavy bearing.

Quince BA29C (About 15' tall, but you must graft an interstem (Comice works well) for many European pears).

**Cherry:** not available this year.

**It is important to note that trees can be and usually are kept shorter than the heights listed above through pruning.**

**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 next to the arrow near your address.** Renew your membership before it expires by completing the Membership Form and mailing it in. You can also renew on our website at [NWfruit.org](http://NWfruit.org).

# Winter Field Day / Open House: March 7, 2020

**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 to noon: 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**

**8:45 – 1:00 PM Rootstock and Scionwood Sales**

**9:00 – 1:30 PM Grafting of Purchased Scions & Rootstock)**

## **Workshops, Lectures and Panels**

### **Auditorium**

**9:00 – 9:10 AM WWFRF accomplishments (Bob Baines)**

**9:10 – 9:25 AM Bee Netting Trials (Kristan Johnson)**

**9:25 – 9:55 AM Pest Update (Beverly Gerdeman)**

**10:00 – 10:55 PM Cosmic Crisp ® Apple Development & tasting (Dr. Kate Evans)  
(by telecommunication)**

**11:00 – 11:55 AM Panel: Dwarf Apple Culture & Training (Bob Norton, Sam Benowitz,  
Gary Moulton, Bob Baines, Laure Jansen, moderator Kristan Johnson)**

### **Lunch and Social Time**

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

**All Day Take a self-guided Fruit Garden Tour, follow the loop of signs**

### **Annual Business Meeting**

12:30 – 1:30 PM, Auditorium (Election of Board Members)

Followed by the Board Meeting to elect officers

### **Auditorium**

**1:30 – 2:30 PM Climatically Marginal Fruit: Peaches, Nectarines, Almonds, Persimmons,  
Figs (Bob Norton, Sam Benowitz, Jerry Gehrke, moderator Kristan Johnson)**

### **Demonstrations in the Fruit Garden**

**1:30 – 2:30 PM Regenerative Pruning of Dwarf Apples (Bob Baines)**

**1:30 – 2:30 PM Fruit Garden Tour (Tom Wake, Fruit Garden Manager)**

**2:30 – 3:30 PM Dwarf Apple Training (Gary Moulton)**

## Scion wood available at the Winter Field Day

### Apple

Alkemene  
Ananas Reinette  
Arkansas Black  
Ashmead's Kernel  
Ben Davis  
Beni Shogun  
Blue Pearmain  
Daliest  
Enterprise  
Esopus Spitzenburg  
Fall Pippin  
Fameuse  
Golden Russet  
Grand Alexander  
Gravenstein, Bloodred  
Gravenstein, Rosebrook  
Gravenstein, Starr  
Honeycrisp  
Jonagold  
Jonagold Decoster  
Karmijn de Sonnaville  
Liberty  
Mother Newton Pippin  
Niedzwetskyana  
Northern Spy  
Pristine  
Roxbury Russet  
Rubinette  
Silken  
Thompkins King  
Tsugaru Homei  
Twenty Ounce  
Wagener  
Weathy  
Westfield Seek-no-Further  
White Winter Pearmain  
Williams' Pride  
Winesap  
Winter Banana  
Wolf River  
Yellow Bellflower

### Asian Pear

Atago Choguro  
Hamese  
Ichiban  
Mishirasu  
Shinseiki

### European Pear

Bosc  
Comice  
Concorde  
Conference  
Orcas  
Rescue  
Starkrimson  
Suij

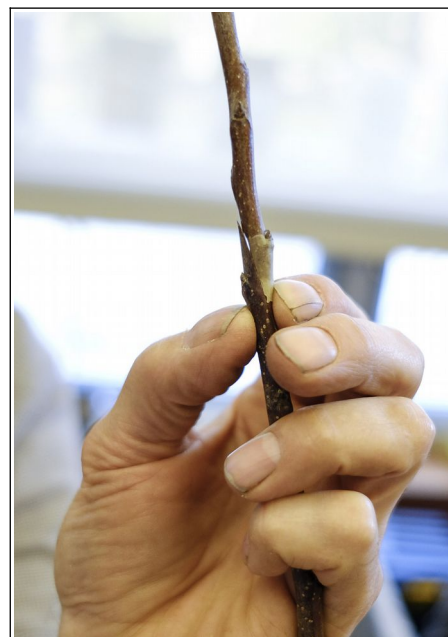
### Asian Plum

Beauty  
Early Golden  
Shiro

### European Plum

Cambridge Gage  
Gras de Melior  
Imerial Epineuse  
Methley  
Obilnaya  
Prune d'Ente  
Senaca  
Valor  
Victory

*A young tree being grafted at the grafting table.*



*We were unable to obtain any dwarf **cherry** rootstocks this year.*



*You really can't start them too young...*

## Fruit Garden update 2020

It's the beginning of another exciting year in the Fruit Garden! We have had a record-breaking turnout of volunteers to help with the many tasks, so thanks to you all and keep up the good work.

Due to a couple of very generous donations, we have completely refurbished the Kiwi Trellis and are embarking on a total rebuilding of the Blueberry Bird-netting structure. Both projects are under the direction of Richard Fairfield, and he has done an excellent job of coordinating this effort. Thanks so very much for your efforts Richard!

We have been establishing groups to “over-see” the development and maintenance of various planting projects, i.e. the Peach Leaf Curl Resistant Peaches, the Organic garden, top-grafting of the antique apples, care of the new “mini-dwarf apple espaliers”, etc. This is allowing us to be much more consistent in our recording and maintaining of cultural practices.



Carole Jacobson assisted by Carol Butz reported the results of their experiment. *“With four years of records and three of those years in one site, there is no clear indication that culling to a king blossom or a king fruit produces more fruit at heavier weights.”* This experiment is an excellent example of volunteers taking the initiative to execute an experiment in the Fruit Garden.



Mike McWilliams and John Keefe have done a herculean job of documenting and mapping the entire Fruit Garden inventory, so we now have an accurate reference for moving forward.

Ned Garvey's excellent work in the Fruit Garden Nursery (see photo to left) has allowed us to “grow up” some of our new plants. We've planted out some those trees, and now have an assortment of recommended nut trees such as almonds and filberts.

Looking forward to seeing you all this spring,

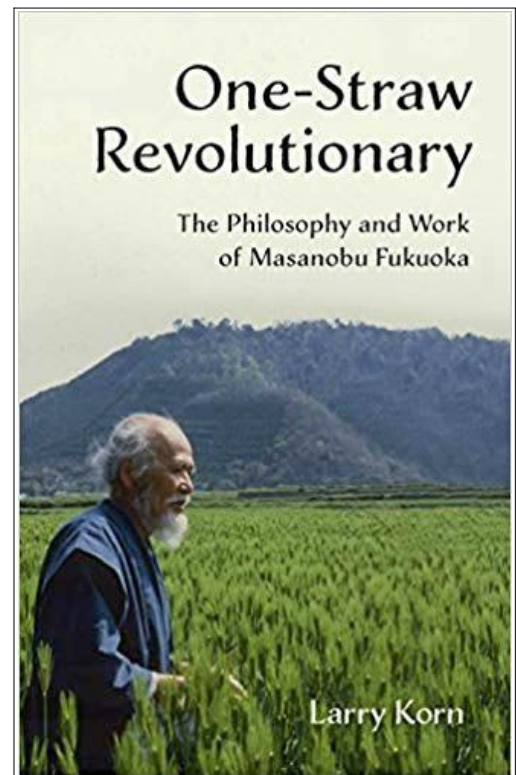
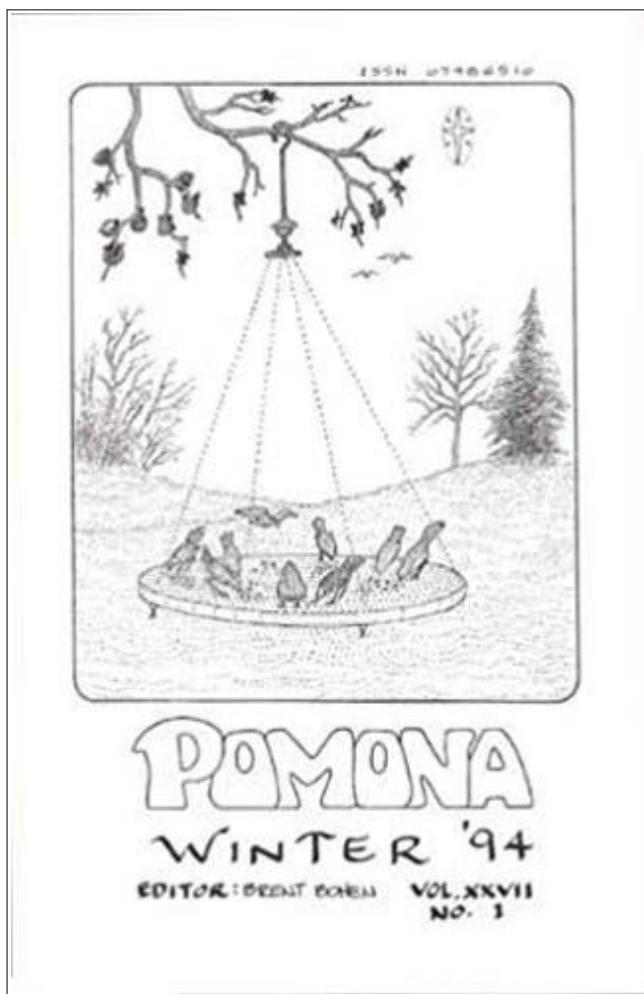
Kristan Johnson

## In Memoriam

By Sam Benowitz

*In the last few months two amazing horticulturists who have provided useful information that have helped home fruit growers have died.*

**Larry Korn**, editor of "The One Straw Revolution" and writer of "The One Straw Revolutionary" and other books, was one of the founders of the Tilth organization and one of the leading advocates for "permaculture". Larry explained how to learn to understand and work with nature. If you haven't read his books, please do. Larry was a kind, wonderful friend to many of us here in the Pacific Northwest.



**Jerry Lehman** was from Indiana and a long time member and leader of NAFEX, North American Fruit Explorers. Jerry was a pioneer in preserving old and developing new cultivars of paw paws and American persimmons. I was happy to travel with him to the former Soviet Union and to bring back important new fruit varieties. Jerry died after falling off a tractor platform while pruning his trees. Though in his 80's he was still doing his excellent work.

The work of both these men is reflected in our Fruit Garden.

*Editor's note: Pomona is the publication of NAFEX.*

**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  
☐ 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: NW Fruit  
C/O Kim Siebert, Secretary  
7904 56<sup>th</sup> DR NE  
Marysville, WA 98270

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

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***NW Fruit Commercial Members***

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

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**NW Fruit Retreat Board Meeting**  
**October 26, 2019**  
**11:00 – 3:00 pm**

**Board Members present:** Bob, Kim, Dennis, Larry, Jay, John, Celeste

**Board Members attending by conference call:** Kristan

*There was a quorum present the whole meeting.*

**Read minutes from 6/1/2019** – Kim – Kristan motioned that the minutes be accepted as read, seconded by Bob. Passed unanimously.

**Financial Report** – Dennis - We began the year with \$47,669 and currently have \$41,800 with \$19,025 in the general fund and \$22,775 in the Fruit Garden fund.

**T-Shirts** - The t-shirts were completed.

**Adoption of the changes to the Bylaws** – Changes made on 3/3/18 (removing the office of Coordinating secretary and 6/1/2019 (allowing digital record keeping) have been made to the Bylaws. The Recording Secretary position has been changed back to plain Secretary, as we only have one secretary position now.

Motion by Kim Siebert: **I motion that we adopt the new version of the Bylaws which includes changes made on 3/3/2019 and 6/1/ 2019 and the addition of the words A.K.A. NW Fruit in two places.** Seconded by Larry. Passed unanimously.

**2020 Budget** – Bob and Dennis – After going over each line item in the budget and adding several new line items, John motioned that we accept the budget as discussed. Seconded by Larry. Passed unanimously. (see attached budget)

John Motioned that the Board of Directors empower the Secretary to contact the Insurance Company and cancel the rest of the year's \$1 million WFD policy if it is to our advantage. Seconded by Celeste.

**Signage on Trees. - John** – *To discuss what constitutes adequate signage for identifying trees Also signage for managing trees.* There was some discussion about this. The Fruit Garden Committee will talk about this.

**Apple and Pear Day** – John – To discuss consider breaking out the function of Apple Pear Day into a separate activities of Apple tasting that would occur as the apples ripen and a simple harvest.  
*Postponed.*

**Master Gardener “Front Door” project** – Jay – Celeste volunteered to help with this.

**Bird abatement by falcons** - Jay – Should we invite this group to do a demonstration during our WFD, which we may be able to have done for around \$150? The WFD program committee will talk about this and contact Jay about it by the middle of November.

**Do we want to have fixed board meeting dates for the Jan/Feb, summer, and November meetings?** - Larry – *Postponed.*

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## **NW Fruit Board Meeting**

**Feb 8, 2020**

**11:00 am – 3:30 pm**

*At Kim Siebert's home*

Board Members attending: Bob, John Dennis, Sam Celeste, Jay, Joanne, Ira, Larry, Kim

Attending by conference call – Kristan

Guest: Colleen Sanders

A quorum was present the entire meeting.

**Membership Report – Joanne** – We have 89 current memberships

**Financial Report** – Dennis - See attached financial reports. Kim will send an example of a past financial report to Larry, Celeste and Bob so that they can work on altering it for use on future reports in the newsletter and website. We need to decide which level of information will be available for the public and for members. We may no longer need to keep a separate fund category for research. It appears to be advisable to put our 990M tax return on the website.

Motion by John seconded Ira - *Based on our reading of Washington State tax law, the Board of Directors interprets that as a body we agree that we meet the exemption listed in the B&O/sales law.* Passed unanimously. Dennis will confirm with Dept. of Revenue.

Reimbursement for travel: President will sign receipts and send to Treasurer.

Reimbursement for Garden expenses: All receipts will be sent through the Garden Manager. Garden Manager will refund and then be reimbursed by Treasurer.

In-kind donations: Larry will look into In-kind tracking.

**Winter Field Day, 2020** – Colleen will help Kim with volunteer scheduling for WFD. Kim will look into volunteer management apps for future years.

**Insurance quotes** – Larry moved that we renew the two large insurance policies (but not the smaller one) with the addition of WSU as named insured. Seconded by John. Passed unanimously. Larry will contact the company and renew, making sure the directors and officers are named on the policy. The insurance policies are for directors and officers liability and for general liability.

**Restricted varieties** - Resolution motion by Jay - It is our intent not to distribute restricted plant material without authorization. 2nd Kristan. Passed unanimously.

**Lifetime Membership** – Jay motioned that we award a lifetime membership to Kristan. Dennis 2<sup>nd</sup>. Passed unanimously.

**Publicity** – A new publicity committee was formed with Celeste as chair, Larry, Sam and Bob as members and Kim and Kristan as advisers. Mike McWilliams may also wish to serve on the committee.

**Recognition for volunteers and others** - Newsletter, benches and thank you cards.

We wish to honor Dr. Robert Norton.

**Next Board meeting** - Kim will send Doodle survey to schedule the next board meeting in May. The meeting will be a longer retreat and we will talk about our purpose and vision for the future and other issues.

**Online communication** – Kim will set up a google account for the BOD to use for documents that we can all access at some level.

**Board Members** – Colleen will join the BOD at our Winter Field Day.

## 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 Joeanne Hilgart, Membership  
6160 Everson Goshen Rd  
Everson, WA 98247-9766

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*Check to see if your membership is expired here.*



## **Winter Field Day!**

## **Notes from 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.