



NW Fruit

February 2021

President's Message

Bob Baines, NW Fruit President

I have to admit that I'm feeling a little more optimism in the past week or two. As of February 1st, a number of counties in Washington will have Covid-19 restrictions lowered to levels that allow increased activity. Hopefully we will soon be able resume our weekly volunteer activity in the Fruit Garden though we will have new protocols to assure the safety of our volunteers and compliance with State mandates and WSU regulations. Though I have avoided illness over the past year, my lack of work activity (yes, I am retired) has taken its toll on my joints and waistline. I'm really looking forward to getting back out there.

Read on and you will see that we are moving forward with some exciting educational outreach and long delayed administrative tasks. A number of volunteers have been devotedly working on several projects to help our Garden functioning more efficiently.

But filling most of our hearts and minds is the loss of Kristan Johnson this past November. Kristan, in addition to being the designer of our Fruit Garden, was in many ways for many years, the Leader of the Band.

Next, you will find memories and pictures from several of his long-time friends in tribute to what he meant to us. At the end I have included a copy of the message I shared with the Seattle Tree Fruit Society in their December 2020 Urban Scion Post Newsletter.

Hope to see you soon in the Garden, or at one of our online meetings or webinars.

Bob Baines



Kristan Johnson with Dr. Bob Norton

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Memories of Kristan Johnson

By Kim Siebert: As most of you know by now, our organization has suffered a great loss in the passing of Kristan Johnson, our Fruit Garden Designer and long term chairperson of the Fruit Garden committee, in November of 2020. He is already greatly missed.

I met Kristan for the first time at a board meeting after he was hired to design our Fruit Garden; I think it was in 1998 or 1999, not too long after I had joined the board of directors. I remember Kristan, De Arbogast and I were sitting outside on some benches after the meeting talking about the Fruit Garden. I really didn't have a clue about garden design or any kind of design, for that matter. I just found myself a part of this little committee...

Kristan was just full of ideas and the enthusiasm to make quite a few of them happen. When he had an idea that involved graphics he would come to me and talk me into working on the project. The first one was the irrigation kiosk sign. I didn't really know what I was getting into. Kristan was a perfectionist, and he kept making changes to things, which was about enough to drive me nuts because it would take him a minute to describe the changes, but an hour for me to make the changes happen. But then I would have to admit that the changes made the project turn out better.



Here I am with Kristan and De in 2002.

Kristan loved being around people and he was always working to get us all to work together peaceably. When you have a group of people get together with differing philosophies and temperaments it can take a little bit of talking to smooth over the differences, and Kristan always tried to keep everyone calm and he tried to find a place for everyone to follow their interests within the organization. He was a wonderful person to work with.

By Bill Davis: I have great memories of Kristan beginning from the early to mid 1980's. I was in the Navy stationed at Naval Station Seattle, when the Western Cascade Fruit Society had held a Fruit Show at the Seattle Center. As one who loved fruit I attended the show and got thoroughly 'hooked' to start growing my own fruit. I'd previously read about Permaculture and was interested in applying that to our gardening. Through WCFS I learned that Kristan had an edible landscaping Company that practiced Permaculture. I contacted him and from there we had a great friendship and working relationship over the years.

After my Navy duties allowed me to settle permanently, I had the time to Join the Board of Directors of WCFS and finally be able to work with and learn gardening from Kristan. Molly and I took a couple of Edible Landscaping Classes from Kristan at the UW evening program in 1987-1988.

Once WWFRF was formed in the early 1990's and after Kristan was hired to design the Display Garden I had a lot of fun helping him graft trees for the Antique Apple display. Along with other volunteers, we built the support structure for the Pears. It was really fun working with Kristan one summer while building the espalier framework and installing copper piping for training the mature Pear trees we'd received from the WSU test orchard. Each Pear Tree offered a different training challenge. My chainsaw and soldering gun got a thorough workout, believe me! However, Kristan rarely got ruffled and always

had a positive attitude toward everyone. I loved working with him.



Kristan using surveying equipment to lay out the espalier supports.

By Bill Pierce: Of course he was a great horticulturalist and we owe so much to him in the garden, but he also had a way of having one-to-one relationships with each individual. He cared most about the person he was talking to and was present in the moment. I'll never forget: I told him I was having a migraine, and he sat with me and walked me through a meditation exercise to help. I learned so much from Kristan.

By Scott Terrell: When I worked for the Skagit Valley Herald newspaper, I tried to get out to the orchard to take feature photos during the Thursday work sessions. When Kristan was there he would often ask me to take a photo or two to place in the WWFRF newsletter or post online. So, I would have to remove my newspaper hat and put on my membership hat. He was so enthusiastic about the progress being made and work being done in the orchard. And I was happy to oblige!

By Larry Crum: I knew very little about apples before I met Kristan, and after chatting with him sometimes for long periods of time, and working in the garden that he designed, I have developed an interest in Heritage apples that has enriched my retirement.

By Jim Wagner: I got to know Kristan while volunteering at the WWFRF garden. He had a positive outlook on things, a good sense of humor and was more than happy to share his knowledge of trees and gardening in general. I wish I was able to spend more time with him as he seemed like a good role model and someone I wanted to know better. His passing was surprising to me and he will be certainly missed.

By Eldon and Mary Vincent: Kristan was an excellent tutor in fruit tree care. And fun. I remember riding a platform behind a tractor pruning the pear trellis. It was fun. We learned a lot from him. We will miss him.



Kristan (to the right) with the Fruit Garden Volunteers in 2015.

Photo by Scott Terrell

By Sam Benowitz: There is a kaddish, a prayer for the dead, that someday their memory will be a blessing, but that day isn't here yet for me with my memories of Kristan. It is so painful to think about how much I miss him, and what a tragedy it is that his somewhat annoying being, and his wealth of knowledge and experience, and skill at knowing how to do so many things that our public garden needed is now lost.

We endured a lot together over four decades. We talked for countless hours. We worked on how we could work with WSU officials to keep our projects going when what we were doing for the many thousands of gardeners and farmers in Western Washington was considered an afterthought that WSU needed to abandon when their finances were being cut, which seemed like was most of the time. We lobbied in Olympia and garnered the support of some powerful legislators for WWFRF. We personally liked most of the WSU Mt. Vernon officials and by pushing the needs of WWFRF, we unfortunately subjected them to pressures on their jobs.

More than 20 years ago, I had traded plants and landscaping work with a Seattle attorney in the Wallingford area. Kristan designed the work we were doing which was going to take a week to do. Kristan drove by one day to see how it was going and after talking to the client for 10 minutes, they both decided we should update the plan and use sledge hammers and dig out and fill in a driveway to a basement garage. Anyway it took ten minutes for Kristan to give the two of us who were doing the work an extra ten days of hard work. The owner was very happy with Kristan about the improvement. Thanks Kristan.

Kristan knew what he called "the dance" of how to keep two opposing forces in balance. As a successful landscape architect he was not only the designer of the garden, but he was central to making sure that all the ongoing work in the garden and all the future plantings and projects would complement and not

undermine the garden plan and its future growth. At the same time it is the volunteers who actually do the work. The volunteer's ideas need to be honored and the volunteers need to be able to contribute their ideas to the garden. Often it takes a lot of discussion and compromise to be able to work this positively into the plan. And then of course any new idea and project puts extra work on an already overworked crew of volunteers.

Kristan and I talked about all this for several hours every month and my role, besides providing expertise on the best plants and their best usage was to assure him that he was not stupid for spending so much time on this and that his take on it all was usually pretty sound. We often joked about our mutual motto that no good deed ever goes unpunished.

Kristan was a rare person who upon reflection was almost always trying to make situations better for everyone even when he seemed argumentative at the time. He was a very good person with loving motives.

Kristan was always looking not only for edible plants but for amazing ornamentals that thrived in our climate. It is very unusual to have one person be an expert on such a wide variety of plants. Did he have extensive lists of the ornamentals? I know he wrote some good lists of his favorite edible plants and it would be good to put those lists on our website and newsletter. Maybe a feature called Kristan's Corner.

For years I would be Kristan's guest at Seahawks games. Maybe a hundred people in all the seats surrounding his season ticket seat in the top deck of the end zone were all his buddies and every time the Hawks scored or had a first down even, they all went crazy high fiving each other. His trip on the ferry made each game into a full day experience. We always met at Collins Pub at the base of the Smith Tower for breakfast and then we walked more than a mile through Pioneer Square to the Stadium. He loved to have parties and his birthday became an historic event. It seemed like he was too full of life to die. I miss him.

Below is *A Note from Bob Baines to the Seattle Tree Fruit Society*. By Bob Baines

Greetings to my friends and fellow members of Seattle Tree Fruit Society. You may have heard that Kristan Johnson passed away about a month ago. He designed the Volunteer Display Garden area at the WSU Research Farm in Mt. Vernon in the late 1990's and for many years he was the leader of the Western Washington Fruit Research Foundation as president, garden committee chairman, mentor, and friend.

Kim Siebert has posted a lovely tribute to the overarching legacy he has bestowed on our organization, though a more specific listing of his contributions would take many pages. You can find it on our NW Fruit website at NWFruit.org along with a beautiful photo which captures his creative and generous spirit.

The weekend following his death, about a dozen of his friends gathered for an informal memory sharing zoom meeting. From the comments shared that day and the many email tributes our members have shared, I was deeply moved by the variety of stories about the relationships we had all had with him. The common denominator to all was how Kristan always engaged people in a dialog and that he assumed that what they had to say was at least as important as his own view of the topic at hand. Then of course, you would have to debate (in a respectful manner) the most reasonable resolution of the issue. He had a way of making you feel that your contribution was valuable and loved his role as the

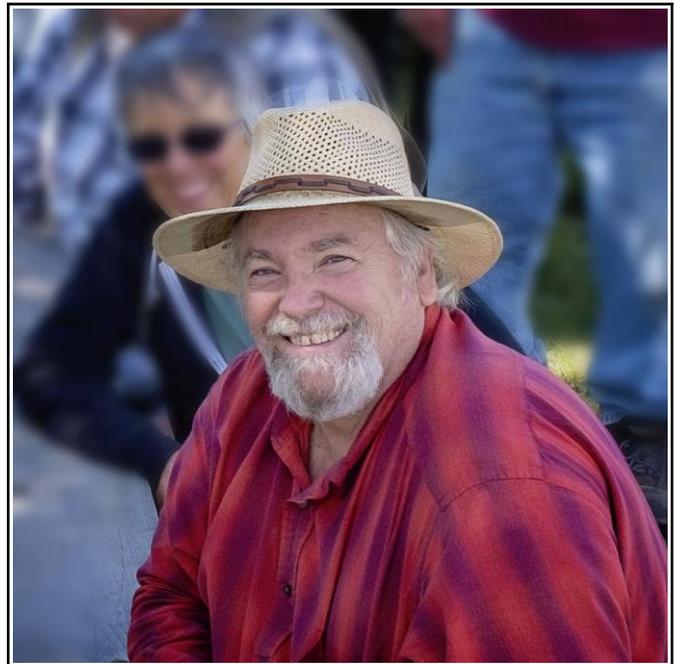
“leader of the garden”. He was always investigating new ways to solve problem and was open to suggestions about what strategies to pursue.

I’m most grateful for the vision of personal success he demonstrated every day.

Use your skills and talents to create something wonderful that you love and spend your years in service to that creation. You ultimately get only one chance to get it right, and Kristan, my friend, I think you nailed it.

We are planning to put a bench with a plaque in the Fruit Garden as a memorial for Kristan. If you would like to contribute to this project you can donate by Paypal on our website and put in the notes that it is for Kristan’s memorial bench, or you can send a check with “*Kristan’s memorial*” written in the memo to:

**NW Fruit
7904 56th Dr NE
Marysville, WA 98270**



New Educational Webinars

Beginning Saturday February 13, 2021 at 10 am

Beginning February 13th we will host educational webinars each month until fall or until we are able to return to our on-site events. The webinar in March will include the Annual Membership Meeting, which should be about 15 minutes long in between educational presentations since we are unable to have our Annual Membership Meeting in person.

Webinar Schedule through June:

February 13th

Scion wood cutting and storage. (Short)

Pruning a neglected fruit tree.

Q & A about growing fruit. Sam Benowitz, founder of Raintree Nursery and Bob Baines.

March 6th

Presentation by Bob Baines. Selection and care of Fruit Trees for the Home Gardener.

Annual Membership Meeting

Grafting presentation.

Q & A session

April 3rd

The blueberry netting support structure in the Fruit Garden and how it is constructed.

Blueberry culture and pruning.

Q & A session

May 1st

Fruit thinning and selecting rootstocks for controlling tree size.

All about rootstocks.

Q & A session

June 5th

Bob Baines - Thin and Prune dwarf apple in Early June - Gravensteins

Netting trees for insect management.

Q & A session

The subjects of the webinars may be subject to change. If the subject is changed we will note that on our website a couple of days before the webinar at the latest.

We will email a link for webinar registration to our members for each webinar 1 week before and post the link on our website the Tuesday before for the public. Members can use the website link if they wish and if there are still openings. If you want to receive the webinar links and have not received the link by the Sunday before the webinar please send an email to info@wwfrf.org and we will send it to you. This will help us update our email data.

These webinars will last from 1 to 2 hours beginning at 10 am **and will have a Q & A session where the attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions about growing fruit.** The webinars will be recorded and then made available to our members only for later viewing. The webinars will be open to non-members (for free) after our members have had the opportunity to register, since we have a limit of about 90 attendees. If we fill our attendee slots we will livestream so that anyone who is interested can watch, but only attendees will be able to ask questions.

NW Fruit Commercial Members

SONSHINE TREE CARE – Professional, Safe, Tree Experts

STFS will have Scionwood Sales this Year

We will not be selling scion wood or rootstocks this year. We are coordinating with *Seattle Tree Fruit Society* to make our scionwood available through them. You can buy rootstocks from Raintree Nursery.

Fruit Garden update 2021

By Colleen Sanders, FG Committee Chairperson

Despite an unusual year following Covid-19 restrictions volunteers were able to accomplish a lot in the Fruit Garden. Thanks to a very generous donation the four rows of blueberries received new netting support structures and new netting as well as mulch. The new structure was designed by Richard Fairfield, who with the help of Larry Hedgpeth, built the frame. Trees were pruned, thinned of fruit, and new trees were planted, watered and cared for. Lawns were mowed and nets put up and taken down. Many, many thanks to the volunteers who helped with the work and followed WSU's stringent Covid 19 regulations.

We lost a friend and a source of steady guidance with the passing of Kristan Johnson, the Fruit Garden Designer. The Fruit Garden Committee met recently via Zoom and is developing plans for this current year. We are moving forward with relabeling trees based on an updated garden inventory. Thanks to Mike McWilliams and John Keefe for their diligent work on the inventory database. Our focus will be to keep up on the pruning and care of the fruit trees, deferring major projects to a time when we have more volunteers and less stringent Covid-19 regulations. Tom Wake, the Garden Manager, will continue to prioritize and direct our work.

Looking forward to seeing you in the Garden,

Colleen

\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**.

NW Fruit Board Meeting
November 7, 2020
11:00 am – 1:00 pm
Zoom video meeting

Attending: Kim, Bob, Colleen, Kristan, Dennis, Jay, John, Kristan, Joanne, Celeste, Ira, Sam

Guests: Tom Wake

Minutes from last meeting – August, 2020 were read by Kim. Approved

Financial Report – Dennis. We are requesting a ruling from the DOR to be certain that we are handling our state taxes correctly.

The Financial Review for 2019 has taken place and the 2020 review has been scheduled for January.

The level of detail shown in the example on the right was approved as recommended by the Financial Review Committee for posting on our website for public viewing. We will also put on the website that a more detailed report is available on request.

Membership report – Joanne – We have 82 current memberships, including 5 lifetime memberships.

Bob to draft letter to remind people with expired memberships to renew, (and another email to request donations), with a slant on the opportunity to get apple and pear day fruit based on having current membership.

We need an SSL certificate for website security for membership payments. They are good for 10 years. Ira will look into it.

We need to confirm by email when people renew. Celeste suggested that we embed link on our website to a Google form to gather information from the renewal form to link with Paypal in order to create automatic confirmation emails for membership payments. Kim, Joanne and Celeste to work on this.

Sam suggested that we might want to request to be mentioned on the websites of other Fruit Groups such as City Fruit.

Insurance – Dennis and Kim – Our new policies are in place and the old ones canceled. Since we changed policies during the year and so paid for 7 extra months for next year we went over the budget for this year although on a month to month basis we are within budget.

MOU – Bob spoke with Carol Miles about our expired MOU and she said it isn't a priority at this time.

Chairperson for the Fruit Garden Committee – Kristan Johnson is resigning as chairperson of the Fruit Garden Committee due to health concerns. Colleen Sanders is stepping in to fill the role until a permanent solution is agreed upon by the BOD. Kim and Colleen will begin work on standing rules procedures for the Fruit Garden committee and chair person.

Tom will check about whether we will be needing to collect scionwood for this next year.

Budget for 2021 – We made a new general category called Speaker Fees and Programs to allow funds for developing online classes and events since we may not be able to have our in person events next year. The

	Year-to-Date		Budget
	10/31/2020		1/1/2020
Beginning Cash Balance (1/1/2020)	\$44,825.33		\$44,825.33
General Fund	\$19,360.21		\$19,360.21
Fruit Garden	\$25,465.12		\$25,465.12
Revenue			
General Fund	\$3,201.29		\$4,000.00
Fruit Garden	\$856.50		\$3,700.00
	\$4,057.79		\$7,700.00
Expenses			
General Fund	\$5,274.04		\$7,100.00
Fruit Garden	\$6,264.76		\$13,850.00
	\$11,538.80		\$20,950.00
Net Cash Change	-\$7,481.01		-\$13,250.00
Ending Cash Balance	\$37,344.32		\$31,575.33
General Fund	\$17,287.46		\$16,260.21
Fruit Garden	\$20,056.86		\$15,315.12

money for the speakers for the Winter Field Day for 2021 has been funneled into this category since we are certain that we will not be able to have a WFD next year. \$150 was allotted for a certificate for SSL for website security. Ira will be setting this up. The budget for 2021 was approved with these and some other changes.

Letter from Mike McWilliams – We all agree that the Fruit Garden Committee will take up the logistics of how to better harvest and distribute the fruit, including donating the fruit along with our usual distributions. The question of whether any changes need to be made to our goals or mission will be taken up at a different meeting focusing on our mission and goals.

Annual meeting – We need to have annual meeting to elect BOD and then a video meeting of BOD to elect officers. We can have the annual meeting after the first online presentation on the 1st Saturday of March.

Reaching our membership during Covid 19 restrictions –

We could have a series of online presentations each Saturday covering different topics and with a question and answer time for the participants to ask questions about a list of subjects about which the presenter is knowledgeable. The presentations would be recorded and available online to members who were unable to attend the presentation. Bob and Kim to work on 1st presentation.

Kim, Bob, Celeste and Sam will work on the Winter Field Day online program and Annual Membership meeting.

Keeping momentum up between events and between committee meetings – Celeste mentioned that the WFD gets people excited but the long period of time before the next opportunity to work on things causes a loss of momentum. John suggested that we use Discord to keep momentum going in committees and among the BOD in general. Several people are going to make an effort to use Discord regularly to communicate instead of email to try to get into the habit of using it since it eliminates having to open tons of emails. End of meeting.

NW Fruit Board Meeting

January 16, 2021

11:00 am – 1:00 pm

Zoom video meeting

Attending: Bob, Sam, Jay, Dennis, Colleen, Kim, Ira, Larry, Celeste

Guest: Tom

Minutes from last meeting – Minutes from November 2020 were read by Kim and approved.

Financial Report – Dennis. DOR has granted NW Fruit the state tax status of Active Non-Reporting.

The 2020 review has been scheduled for January 18.

We have let our Optional Charities Program registration laps as we only needed it one year when we raised more than 50K and that was in 2008.

Kim motioned that we not put the budget in the Financial report that we post for public viewing online. We have never done this in the past and it was not noticed until after the last meeting that we had it in the example we voted on. Passed

SSL certificate for website security. - Ira – Completed: Friday, 13 Nov 2020. Our hosting company provides a free security certificate for its hosted web sites. The certificate has been installed Site URL is now <https://nwfruit.org> . We are giving the \$150 allotted for this back to the general fund.

Webinars - Kim –

After some discussion Kim motioned that we begin a \$40 per month webinar add-on for ZOOM and after 3 months decide whether to stop doing webinars or to continue until we are finished for the year. Passed unanimously.

Kim will confirm with the people who will be presenting at the webinars so that a schedule up through June can be printed in the newsletter.

Kim and Bob to work out how to present the pruning video with stops for Bob to explain updated methods.

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
 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 56th DR NE
Marysville, WA 98270

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

**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 Kim Siebert
7904 56th DR NE
Marysville, WA 98270**

You may also renew your membership by PayPal on our website at NWfruit.org.

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

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Check to see if your membership is expired here. 

Educational Webinars!

Memories of Kristan Johnson!

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.