



## President's Message

*Bob Baines, NW Fruit President*

I'd like to share two high caliber resources for fruit growing knowledge, primarily using techniques and strategies associated with organic fruit gardening.

First, the **North American Fruit Explorers** ([nafex.org](http://nafex.org)): Quite reasonably priced membership gives you access to the recorded sessions from the 2021 conference held in December, plus digital editions of 50 years of the quarterly *POMONA* journal, and more. One can get lost going down the rabbit hole of 50 years of searchable fruit articles, many topics have multiple articles from across North America. But this access to the 2021 Virtual Conference is the main reason I recommend NAFEX today.

Here are just a few examples: *Preserving Our Heirloom Apple Heritage*, *Permaculture Orchards for Changing Climates*, *Agroforestry: An Alternative Agriculture*, *Exploring Wild and Cultivated Orchards*.

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The second resource I want to share with you is a website called [eOrganic.org](http://eOrganic.org). This website, created by the **eOrganic Community of Practice of the Extension Foundation**, is for farmers, ranchers, agricultural professionals, certifiers, researchers and educators seeking reliable information on organic agriculture, published research results, farmer experiences, and certification. Current content focuses on general organic agriculture, dairy production and vegetable production. The content is collaboratively authored and reviewed by its community of University researchers and Extension personnel, agricultural professionals, farmers and certifiers with experience and expertise in organic agriculture.

**eOrganics'** excellent digital resource, no membership required, offers open access to articles and webinars with information about organic fruit gardening, scouting for pests in organic gardens & more.

eOrganics is hosted by [Oregon State University](http://Oregon State University).

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## Winter Field Day ♦ March 12, 2022 ♦ 10 am to 2 pm

*Admission Free for NW Fruit Members: Included in annual dues*

▶ **No One-Day Passes This Year** ◀

*You can pay for membership [here](#) or at the event. Annual membership \$25 or \$40 per family (parents with non-adult children only)*

**Scion & Rootstock Sales**  
**Grafting & Pruning Demonstrations**  
*Cash or Check only*

## Masks Are Required

Unlike prior years' Winter Field Days, all activities will be held under tents with open sides, offering some cover from rain but still essentially outdoors, not in the heated auditorium. **Masks and social distancing are required.** It will likely be chilly so wear appropriate clothing. Check our website, [Nwfruit.org](http://Nwfruit.org), the day before the event in case of last minute changes.

## Winter Field Day: March 12, 2022

NW Fruit Garden of 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

- 9:30 – 10:00 AM Registration begins - All members must first register & hand stamp  
10:00 – 10:05 AM Orientation and Opening of Sales Tents – Experts available 10am to 1pm  
10:00 – 1:30 PM Sales and Grafting of Purchased Scions & Rootstock

**No Credit Cards** are accepted at the event. **Cash** and **Checks** are accepted.

If you don't have checks be sure to **bring cash**. The proceeds fund our organization's garden and events!

### Pavilion Lectures

- 10:05 – 11:00 AM **Understanding Grafting, Sam Benowitz & Friends** - This class will prepare you for success by demonstrating how and when to do various grafting techniques. This includes topworking, scionwood collection and storage, rootstock options and how to get your newly grafted trees off to a great start. (In addition, experts are available **from 10 to 1** to help you pick out and graft rootstocks and scionwood.)
- 11:00 – 11:50 AM **Griffin Berger Operation Manager of Sauk Farm LLC** - Growing fruit in an organic orchard here in Western Washington.
- 11:50 – 12:30 PM **Break in class schedule** - Lunch will not be available, not even for the volunteers. Bring your lunch and beverages. **Coffee will NOT be available.**
- 12:00 – 12:30 PM **General Membership Meeting and Nomination of Board Members**  
Volunteers are welcome to join the Board of Directors and now's the time! At this Members Meeting nominations are gathered and you will be well received.

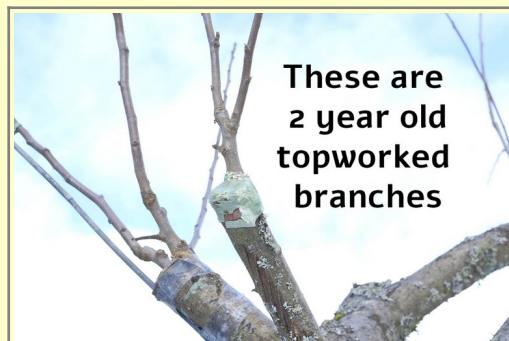
### Demonstrations in the Fruit Garden

Several stations will be set up to teach the pruning needed for the various fruits. Most 50 minute sessions are repeated, so you will be able to attend more of the sessions. Some of the initial instruction will be in tents. Then we will go out in the orchard, regardless of the weather, so dress appropriately.

#### 12:30 PM Choose among the following stations:

- Pruning apple & pear trees with Bob Baines - Goal based decisions including comparison of summer and dormant pruning
- Blueberry pruning
- Pruning unusual fruits with Peter Rueckert
- Orchard Tour with Tom Wake

- 1:30 PM Repeat of same options as above, plus
- Topworking - grafting new scions onto existing orchard trees



## How To Find Your Membership Status

*If the email* by which you received this newsletter begins “Hello NW Fruit **Member**” then your membership is current through March 2022. If the email begins “Hello NW Fruit **Friend**” then your membership is **not current for this event**. Membership expires on the anniversary of the last payment.

You can conceivably pay for membership at the event, but by [paying it ahead of time](#) registration is simpler. **Please note:** All purchases at the event require check or cash. No credit cards.

### Rootstocks For Sale at Winter Field Day 2022

#### Apple Rootstock

EMLA 27	5-8 ft
Geneva 41	7-10 ft
EMLA 26	10-15 ft
Geneva 30	10-15 ft
MM 111	16-20 ft
Antonovka	20-30 ft

#### Pear Rootstock

Old Home x Farmingdale 87 15-20 ft

#### Quince Rootstock

Provence Quince 13-16 ft

#### Plum Rootstock

Krymsk 1	10-13 ft
Marianna 2624	10-16 ft

## About Rootstock Sales

We offer many of the best proven, **certified virus free** dwarfing rootstocks that have a diameter of about 1/4 inch. The height of tree on each rootstock will vary depending on many factors including the vigor of the variety of scionwood grafted on it and methods of pruning.

On the plum rootstock you can graft plums, apricots or almonds but our apple and pear rootstocks are for only apple and pear respectively. (Peaches are compatible with plum rootstocks but don't graft well in the winter and are usually summer budded.) Unfortunately we weren't able to obtain cherry rootstocks this year, but we've added **quince** rootstocks. Some pear varieties can be grafted to quince rootstock, and of course quince grafts to quince. We hope to have some mini dwarf EMLA 27 rootstock interstem pieces for anyone wanting to make an **interstem** apple tree.

### Limits to sales of scions, rootstocks and grafting

**Limit during first two hours or so: per person, three grafts done by our experts, three rootstocks of each variety and three pieces of scionwood per variety.**

When everyone has had a chance to be helped, you can buy more.

#### Scions & Rootstock Prices

Scionwood	\$3
Rootstocks	\$5
Grafts by our experts	\$4

#### Grafting Supplies

Victorianox Grafting Knife	\$25
Felco 8 Pruning Shears	\$60
Bundle 20 Grafting Bands	\$3
Parafilm bud grafting Tape	\$6

No Credit Cards are accepted at the event. Cash and Checks are accepted.

## Scionwood available at Winter Field Day 2022

A wide variety of apple, pear and plum scionwood are planned for the sale. We are taking care that each piece of scionwood is free of oyster scale or other pests but we cannot guarantee it.

We try to collect scionwood about 1/4 inch in diameter to roughly match up with the caliper of the rootstock. Each piece is about ten inches long, is labeled as to variety and is sealed on both ends. Each stick of scionwood can make one or two grafts. In our grafting class and demonstrations we will show you how to graft scionwood not only on rootstocks but also on existing trees in your orchard. Look for the **Topworking Class** in the afternoon.

### Apples

Ananas Reinette  
Arkansas Black  
Ashmead's Kernel  
Autumn Crisp  
Belle de Boskoop  
Bramley  
Celestia  
Chehalis  
Dayton  
Elstar, Daliest  
Freyburg  
Golden Russet  
Gravenstein  
Hatsuaki  
Honeycrisp  
Jonagold  
Jonared  
Karmijn  
Liberty  
Melrose  
Mother  
Newtown Pippin  
Niedzwetskaya  
Nutmeg Pippin  
Roxbury Russet  
Rubinette  
Scarlet Ohara  
Spartan  
Tsugaru, Homei  
Wealthy  
Williams Pride  
Winter Banana  
Wolf River  
Yellow Transparent

### Pear, European

Abbe Fetal  
Bartlett  
Bosc  
Comice  
Doyenne di Juliet  
Klementinka  
Leonardo Moritini  
Onward  
Orcas  
Rescue  
Rosata Moritini  
Russeted Comice  
Spalding  
Starkrimson  
Suij

### Plum

Blues Jam  
Cocheco  
Early Golden  
Gros Ameliorat  
Hollywood  
Imperial Epineuse  
Kuban Comet  
Mirabelle de Nancy  
Obilnaja  
Seneca  
Sweet Treat Pluerry  
Valor  
Victory

### Almond

Halls Hardy  
Reliable

### Cherry

Danube  
Early Burlat  
Emperor Francis  
Hartland  
Lapins  
Sweetheart  
White Gold

### Quince

Aromatnaya

### Pear cross

Shipova

### Asian Pear

Atago  
Chojuro  
Hamese  
Ichiban Nashi  
Mishirasu  
Shinseiki  
Yakumo



Bench grafting at a past Winter Field Day



## Recognition & Appreciation

Kim Siebert is retiring from being a director for WWFRF/NW Fruit after being a board member for more than two decades, serving as Secretary for many years and President for two years. The board is recognizing her huge contributions to our organization by awarding her a lifetime membership.

Working long hours with Kristan Johnson and De Arbogast, Kim was instrumental in starting the fruit garden. She obtained funding, documented and photographed the development of the Fruit Garden. Kim's work has been a significant factor in our organization's success. When photos are in the newsletter without crediting, they are frequently Kim's photos.

Consistently since 2006 Kim provided a high quality newsletter on paper and then electronically, both writing and editing many of the articles we publish. The newsletter provides the growing information our members rely upon to keep up with doings in our fruit garden and in their home gardens.

We have had several long meetings at her house where she and her family were gracious hosts.

Board member Jay Scott says of Kim, "She has been my 'go to' expert for Fruit Garden history, legal questions, event organization and all sorts of other situations that arise. I doubt that anyone can replace her knowledge."

Fortunately, Kim is not stopping her work with our organization. In typical Kim fashion she is working with our other volunteers to teach us how to continue her work. She will continue to help the organization in a supporting role.

We all love and respect her, and thank her so much.

### **March 12th General Membership meeting agenda**

*12 O'clock, Followed by the Board meeting*

- 1 – Introduction – Bob Baines
- 2 – Financial Report – Dennis Davenport
- 3 – Vote on Proposed Addition to Bylaws
- 4 – Nomination and vote for board members

### **Board Meeting**

**12:20 – Nomination of Officers – Vote**

## A Call For Volunteers

Kim Siebert managed so many activities and details, we urge members, friends and occasional volunteers to step up as Kim steps back. Laura Wilson, with Kim's training, is taking charge of our newsletter and Ira Collins is doing more on our website but also needs help.

**We need someone to take the position of Secretary for NW Fruit.**

The Secretary is one of the officers on the Board of Directors. The term is one year but you may serve more than one term if you are willing. The position involves writing the minutes for the board meetings and other secretarial tasks. The current secretary Kim Siebert is leaving the position as of March, but Kim will assist the new secretary with these tasks while the new secretary is learning about them. Most of the tasks are done from a home computer. If you think you might be interested email us at [info@wwfrf.org](mailto:info@wwfrf.org) and we will answer your questions.

**Board of Directors** – We also need a few more people to serve a two year term on the Board of Directors. This involves 3-5 meetings a year, many of which are by ZOOM. We are going to start having an orientation by ZOOM to help members understand what serving on the Board of Directors involves. We will send out an email to invite people to attend. The orientation is a good way to figure out if this might be a good fit for you; there is no obligation to become a director.

**Volunteers can help in many areas so please email us at [info@wwfrf.org](mailto:info@wwfrf.org).**

## Vote on the Proposed Addition to the Bylaws

With the uncertainties caused by frequently changing regulations which affect gatherings, we can't be certain that we will always be able to have our Annual Membership Meeting at an in-person event. In the past, before Covid, we always had it during the lunch break of our Winter Field Day.

At the Winter Field Day on March 12 this year, **during the Annual Membership Meeting** which begins at noon, we will vote on the following proposed (**bold purple text**) addition to the bylaws:

### ARTICLE II. MEMBERSHIP

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#### Section 3. Meetings.

The annual meeting of members shall be held at a time and place fixed by the Board of Directors.

**Meetings may be in person or through one or more means of remote communication through which members not physically present may participate in the meeting substantially concurrently, vote on matters submitted to the members, pose questions, and make comments.**

Special meetings of members may be called by the President, or in the absence, death, or disability of the President, by the Vice President, by the Directors by action at a meeting, or by a majority of the Directors acting without a meeting, or by petition of at least ten (10) members.

## Blueberry Inspirations From NW Fruit - from Bill Slater

For years the couple of blueberry bushes in my Lake Stevens back yard were low priority. I was much more focused on the care of my raspberries which were thriving and producing abundant crops. But then in 2019, initially attracted by an advertised Saturday workshop on tree pruning, I became a NW Fruit orchard volunteer. I have been richly blessed with guidance and lessons on many topics from associating with the group. But of particular note are lessons learned from watching and working with the team on blueberries.

As the berries ripen each year, we volunteers get a chance to harvest some. The abundance and quality of the berries has significantly elevated my regard for and love of blueberries. NW Fruit orchard blueberries are some of the largest and sweetest blueberries I had ever tasted.

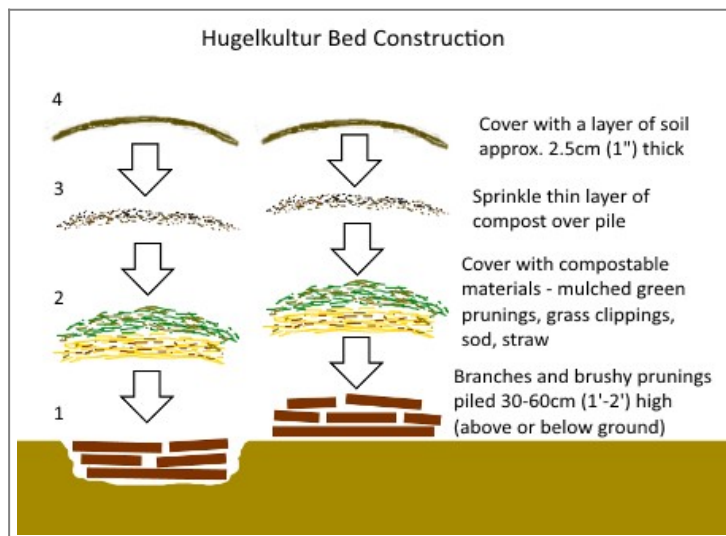
I soon began to make plans to incorporate blueberries in the orchard I was laying out. I had acquired acreage in Granite Falls for construction of a house where I plan to live in retirement. While my move from Lake Stevens to Granite Falls will not be for a few years, I've begun now to establish my orchard and plantings. Starting now makes sense: a house can be built in a year or so, but an orchard takes years longer to develop.

Some of the key lessons I picked up on blueberries can be summarized in five key areas, starting with:

**1. Sun** – At the NW Fruit Orchard the blueberry rows receive full-day exposure to sun. My poor bushes in Lake Stevens suffer from a shady back yard presided over by mature cedar trees. A first step to establish a blueberry crop is to find a location in full sun. At my Granite Falls location I have laid out rows for about 20 bushes in an open field where there is no shade to interfere with the needed solar energy to maximize fruit production.

**2. Soil** – You can't beat the fertile Skagit Valley soil. Few spots in our region have better soil than the NW Fruit orchard location. My Granite Falls site has good sandy loam with some sections of rockier mixture. Based on suggestions from other volunteers

(Salute to Mike McWilliams, my hero for teaching me about this!), I am preparing my beds and amending my soil using a modified "hügelkultur" approach (see diagram). I started out with backhoe to establish a trench for each row about 3-feet deep. I then half-filled the trench with debris like downed tree trunk sections, smaller than 1-foot in diameter, and other branches and materials gathered as I cleaned up areas of my property. Next a layer of wood chips from my chipper. Then alternating layers of removed soil with rabbit manure and coffee grounds. I was soon up to grade level with some soil to spare, which I mounded up around the blueberry bushes planted at just above original grade level.



*Illustration from [deepgreenpermaculture.com](http://deepgreenpermaculture.com)*

The manure and coffee were obtained free from local sources, along with the 5-gallon buckets to contain them. I use coffee grounds for soil acidity, knowing that periodic soil testing and monitoring will help keep the pH of the soil in the target range for the acid-loving blueberries.

As the organic matter decomposes, the mounds will sink and my berry bushes will eventually be at the original grade level. The beds are enhanced with better moisture retention properties and are more fertile than the original sandy loam.

**3. Irrigation** – Drip irrigation is a most effective method. At the NW Fruit Garden, lines have been placed underground and are quite beneficial. To use the surface water from a seasonal stream on my property for irrigation I chose to use a suspended drip line at about 2-feet above ground. This will be more accessible for maintenance. The stream water must be filtered, clogged emitters will be easier to keep clean. We'll need to drain the system before first frost each year.

We used T-posts pounded deep into each trench before the “hügelkultur” back-fill, braced them and stretched a fence wire taut along the row upon which I secured the drip irrigation line.



*Hugelkultur for blueberries.*

**4. Weed Control** – The NW Fruit blueberry team has perfected the “Lasagna-method” of mulch. Given my fondness for “free” I was immediately sold on their process, which is to lay down flattened cardboard boxes (with all tape and labels removed... won't decompose!). Then cover the cardboard with a layer of hog fuel. Hog fuel includes bark, wood chippings, shavings, and sawdust – all plentiful by-products of forestry and sawmills. Because hog fuel is often piled up outside, on the ground, dirt and even ice (in cold enough climates) can end up in the mix. So, it is much cheaper than the premium bagged bark mulch, but every bit as useable for this application!

I have found an abundance of excellent cardboard by watching the free section on “Craigs List.” Often moving boxes will be offered up and the real gems are the heavy-duty wardrobe boxes! This layering keeps the weeds under control without any Roundup. You just add another layer every year or so and it is a very ecologically friendly way of managing weeds around your blueberries. I will be following that wonderful practice as taught by the NW Fruit blueberry group.

**5. Bird Barriers** – One could not possibly discuss the NW Fruit blueberry operation without a tip of the hat to Richard Fairfield, who designed and installed the bird barrier structure with the help of the rest of the blueberry group. The key take-away here is to make sure you plan your berry bush plantings with enough space to build a construction modeled after what you see at the NWF orchard. You want to





*Proud Gardener!*

have space to walk in the structure to harvest berries without stooping. Make sure you allow for the mature size of blueberry bushes. Don't underestimate!

The structure is a framework made of metallic conduit with hardware connectors. Over the framework you drape bird netting during the fruiting season. Netting can be easily removed during the off season for accessibility to the plants for spraying, pruning, or other maintenance. Best done with a team, the nets are installed and secured with clothes pins. At ground level a variety of techniques for securing the nets have been used, depending on the scale of your installation there is probably some value in experimentation. I would recommend anyone planning a blueberry planting to consider adapting the design of the bird barrier cages to their site size and available construction materials.

It has been a huge pleasure to associate with NW Fruit and I have missed our Thursday volunteer sessions during the past year what with Covid etc. Let's hope for a better year in 2022.

*NAFEX continued from p.1, President's Message:*

**NAFEX:** A digital annual membership is currently \$19 for one year. The \$25 membership level includes printed copies of four issues of the quarterly *POMONA* journal. Both levels include access to the recorded sessions from the 2021 virtual conference, access to 50 years of digitized and searchable *POMONAs*, and links to regional resources.

The six day conference offered sessions twice a day. When you complete your membership you receive an active link to the videos. Below with more detail (not active links) are listed just a few examples.

### **Preserving Our Heirloom Apple Heritage**

Tom Brown, Heritage Apples  
Joanie Cooper, Temperate Orchard Conservancy  
Harry Burton, Apple Luscious Organic Orchard

### **Permaculture Orchards for Changing Climates**

Keith Johnson, HeartBeet Farm and Permaculture Center  
Andrew Millison, Oregon State University  
Jacques Neukom, Neukom Family Farms

## Agroforestry: An Alternative Agriculture

Erik Hagan, Savanna Institute

Max Paschall, Shelterwood Forest Farm

Zach Elfers, Nomad Seed Project

## Exploring Wild and Cultivated Orchards

Dan Bussey, The Illustrated History of Apples in the US & Canada

Sean Williams, Heirloom Fruit Preservationist

Matt Kaminsky, Gnarly Pippins

## Keynote Address: The Holistic Orchard

Michael Phillips, Lost Nation Orchard, Author of *The Holistic Orchard*, *The Apple Grower*, and *Mycorrhizal Planet*

**eOrganics**, continued from p.1, President's Message:

At the eOrganics site you will find this first link below is to a **menu** of multiple articles about growing fruit using organic gardening.

[eOrganic: Organic Fruit Production Systems](#)

[Organic production systems in northern highbush blueberry](#)

Slide handout - [eOrganic Long-term Organic Production Systems](#)

[Scouting for Vegetable and Fruit Pests on Organic Farms](#)

Webinar on YouTube - [Organic Pesticide Labels: What You Need to Know](#)

## WWFRF Financial Report: 12/31/2021

### Current Funds

	Begin 2021	Income	Expenses	End 2021	Difference
General Fund	18562.46	5234.46	2437.93	21358.99	2796.53
Fruit Garden Funds	23895.44	7994.17	3855.01	28034.60	4139.16
Total Funds	42457.90	13228.63	6292.94	49393.59	+ 6935.69

### General Fund

#### Income

Membership Dues	4244.15
Donations	565.31
Donations for Kristan Johnson Memorial	425.00

**Total Income** 5234.46

#### Operating Expenses

Insurance	1636.00
Fall Field Day	43.26
Printing & Mailing	318.26
WA State Filing Fees	10.00
Website	47.97
ZOOM subscription with webinar	382.44
Winter Field Day Expenses	0

**Total Expenses** 2437.93

**Difference** 2796.53

### Fruit Garden Fund

#### Income

Apple Sales	545.00
Fruitbooth Sales	194.00
Donations	7255.17
Scionwood Sales	0

**Total Income** 7994.17

#### Expenses

Fruit Garden Maintenance Expenses	1635.64
Pest Control Expenses	1017.45
Shed Relocation	1201.92

**Total Fruit Garden Expenses** 3855.01

**Difference** \$4139.16

By Dennis Davenport, WWFRF Treasurer





## **Fruit Garden Report**

The Fruit Garden Committee wrapped up the year with a meeting in November. John Keefe has done an excellent job reconciling the Garden's database of plant inventory and has completed replacing the first batch of labels with the new ones. We heard from committee members who summarized their work group activity which led us to decide to expand the number of work groups, depending on how many volunteers we have. The project to install solar lighting on the garden sheds is progressing well. Also, we hope to purchase a new string trimmer for the Garden. This will help our volunteers more easily maintain the grass under the trees and shrubs. Currently we use an older push mower. We are looking forward to the Winter Field Day in March. Please come by and say hello. Many of our current Garden Committee members will be there.

Tom Wake • Bill Davis • Bob Baines • Dennis Davenport • Larry Hedgpeth  
• Sam Benowitz • Jay Scott • Ned Garvey • Beth Jones • Scott Terrell

Hope to see you there,

Colleen Sanders, Chair



## ***NW Fruit • ZOOM Board meeting • November 13th, 2021***

**Attending:** Bob Baines, Celeste Frisbee, Kim Siebert, Colleen Sanders, Dennis Davenport, Sam Benowitz, Jay Scott, Ira Collins

**Guests:** Tom Wake

A quorum was present the whole meeting.

**Minutes from last meeting** – Kim – The minutes from the August 28th, 2021 meeting were read and approved.

**Financial report** – Dennis – As of November 10, 2021 we have \$21,067 in the general fund and \$22,076 in the Fruit Garden fund. WSU still has not sent us the billing for all of their services they have provided this year so these number will change by the end of the year.

**Membership report** – We currently have 117 memberships.

**Fruit Garden update** Committee report – Colleen motioned that we confirm the selection by the Fruit Garden Committee of Bill Davis, Sam Benowitz and Tom Wake to serve on the Plant Collection Committee and Colleen Sanders to be the Chair of the Fruit Garden Committee for next year. Seconded by Sam. Approved unanimously.

The Plant Collection Committee will take the place of the Fruit Garden Designer in the FG Management Plan. The Plant Collection Committee will include people who are experienced in these areas: 1. Fruit varieties, 2. Design and maintenance of function, 3. Legacy adviser – maintaining the integrity of the original design.

### **Old Business**

**Monthly Topical meetings** – Will be postponed until January.

**Winter Field Day 2022** – This will be on March 5th, 2022. Tom will confirm with Carol Miles (WSU) that we will be able to have the Field Day. A meeting is scheduled for December 11th to work on the speakers and schedule for the event.

### **New Business**

**Website updating and hiring of a part time administrative assistant** – Celeste suggested that we hire an administrative assistant who would help find people to do various tasks such as website updating. Celeste will create a survey that we will send out to the BOD and other members to find the needs that such an assistant would work on filling. Kim will send the survey out to various people who were suggested at this meeting. The the funding for the administrative assistant will be voted on in the budget below.

**Budget** – The budget for 2022 was gone over by each line item. Kim motioned that we accept the budget as amended. Seconded by Ira. Passed Unanimously.

**Fruit Press** – It turned out that they already sold it.



## ***NW Fruit • ZOOM Board meeting • January 29th, 2022***

**Attending:** Bob Baines, Kim Siebert, Sam Benowitz, Colleen Sanders, Ira Collins, Jay Scott, Joanne Hilgart, Celeste Frisbee, Dennis Davenport (came later in meeting).



**Guests:** Tom Wake, Bob Ness, John Keefe  
A quorum was present the entire meeting.

**Minutes from last meeting** – Kim read the minutes from the November 13th, 2021. Unanimously approved.

**Financial Report** – Dennis – Dennis sent out the year end Financial Report before the meeting. We did very well last year in both membership renewals and donations, in spite of difficulties having our usual events resulting from Covid considerations, so that our income was up by about \$7K. Dennis reminded us that we have \$800 allocated for a memorial for Kristan Johnson.

**Membership report** – Joanne – We currently have 121 memberships including a few complimentary memberships.

**Fruit Garden update** Committee report – Colleen – John K. is proceeding with the new labels for the trees. A string trimmer will be purchased after some more research is done to find the best model. The research for the solar lighting for the sheds is progressing.

### **Old Business**

**Website updating and hiring of a part time administrative assistant** – Kim will head up a committee with Bob Baines, Celeste, (plus Colleen and Bob Ness who joined after the meeting) to explore how to best use a part time administrative assistant using the information collected from volunteers after the meeting in November. The committee will report at the next board meeting.

**Winter Field Day 2022** – Bob B. has been in communication with the other fruit interest groups in the Seattle area. These groups are in agreement that it will be both workable and desirable for us to change the date of the Winter Field Day. Kim motioned that we permanently change the date of the Winter Field Day to the second Saturday in March. Seconded by Ira. Passed unanimously.

Since we are having an all outdoor event this year due to Covid concerns we are renting a large tent/tents rather than the auditorium.

Ira reported on using Square One to accept credit cards at the event, but since you can't use the service without giving them someone's Social Security number we are not going to do it.

Bob has bought a microphone & speaker unit which we may buy several of for speakers to use for outdoor talks, but we have to test it more before we make a decision.

### **New Business**

**Set up a long range planning retreat** – The next board meeting will be a long range planning retreat. Kim will send out a Doodle poll to set a date.



**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  
  \_\_\_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 Kim Siebert  
  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.

***Be Aware***

**Invasive murder hornets** have been found in Washington, especially in Whatcom county. If established, this species will likely be devastating to honey bees and the native bees we rely on for pollination. Let's be forewarned and vigilant. Here's ID and reporting information:  
<https://agr.wa.gov/hornets>



*Asian Giant Hornet, courtesy agr.wa.gov*

## 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 56<sup>th</sup> DR NE  
Marysville, WA 98270

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*Volunteers prepare scionwood for Winter Field Day 2022.*

### ***Thursday Mornings at NWFruit***

The Northwest Fruit Garden is a beautiful place. Regular volunteer days are **Thursdays 9 am to noon**. As an all volunteer organization, we depend on our volunteers. You can be included!

### ***Winter Field Day Orchard Tour Enrich Your Experience***

Garden manager Tom Wake will show visitors around the seven acre garden to familiarize the many types of fruit you can successfully grow in our region. It's a great way to see our extensive collections. After your on-site tour you can go home and look again; on your computer click [NWfruit.org/tour](http://NWfruit.org/tour) to see 40 info stations in our Fruit Garden. There's always more to learn!

**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.**