



President's Message

Two years of laying low and BOOM, suddenly we're in the fast lane with lots of new activity in the Fruit Garden and administrative plans in the works. Our midmorning break has become a forum for numerous projects and concerns being introduced and discussed. Recurring themes are replenishment and communication.

In the Garden the Blueberry and Peach teams are getting lots done and we've re-established a Cherry team. Please read the informative **Fruit Garden Report** on page 3 for more detail and for other new projects, including our collaborative pollinator installations.

Saturday work parties have begun -- 9am to 12 noon. Meeting July 2 and every other Saturday thereafter. Details page 4.

30 Years! Let's Celebrate!

****** Thursday, July 7th * 11 am - 2 pm ******

Families Invited

No Admission Charge

Pot Luck Luncheon

Summer Fruit Tasting

Find more details on page 2.

Board member Celeste Frisbee and Vice President Ira Collins have been hard at work for months developing our **website update**. They applied and qualified to engage DemocracyLab.org, IT professionals who volunteer "tech for good" work teams for non-profit organizations. Many of you have responded to their surveys and requests for interviews, to help clarify our goals for the web design team. An ambitious project with demonstrable achievements. This project merits your attention.

For more detail about NW Fruit please join us at upcoming events, beginning with **July 7th** celebration. For the following **Sunday, July 10**, NW Fruit Board of Directors invites all interested members to a Website Planning Retreat. **Lunch included!** Purpose: to learn about and give clarity to this design project. This is real important for NWF now. Details on page 3 and on pages 10-11.

A Volunteer Appreciation Picnic is in the planning stages for a Thursday in **August**. There are many opportunities to participate with NW Fruit activities at the volunteer demonstration garden. Join as a [member](#), join as a [volunteer](#), or sign up for our [mailing list](#) so you stay informed.

Hope to see you soon,

Bob Baines, President NW Fruit

Potluck on July 7th at the NW Fruit Garden

by Sam Benowitz

Everyone is Welcome!

Northwest Fruit will celebrate
our 30-year anniversary on

Thursday July 7th from 11 am to 2 pm at the Northwest
Washington Research & Extension Center at
16650 SR 536, Mount Vernon.

The event is FREE and open to all.



11 am Tour the six-acre fruit orchard with knowledgeable volunteers to see progress on many projects.

12 Noon Enjoy a delicious entrée among other potluck treats. Coffee and tea will be provided. Bring food to share so we can enjoy a great lunch together.



1 pm In the auditorium, reminisce with Jacky King who, along with Gary Moulton worked with the late Dr. Bob Norton at the research station. This team was instrumental in supporting volunteer participation for many years. Jacky will join founder Sam Benowitz, Bill Davis, De Arbogast, Kim Siebert and others will lead a discussion involving everyone in attendance, recounting our history of the last 30 years.

We encourage all who have been active in the past to come and add your valuable perspective. We will also discuss important future directions for the garden and for the NW Fruit volunteer coalition — including website redesign in the works this year.



These photos may look familiar to NW Fruit fans -- they are all from the archives, thanks to Kim Siebert and others. Fig varieties can be identified by their distinctive leaves - Sep 2010. Many enjoyable times, more to come!

*** Sunday Design Retreat, July 10, 2022 ***

Who: All members of NW Fruit
What: NWF Board of Directors Invites You to Lunch
When: 7/10/22 • 10am to 1pm PT • *RSVP required*
Where: Village Community Services
3210 Smokey Point Drive, Suite 200
Arlington, WA 98223
Capacity 50 people • full kitchen facility etc.
With: Zoom participants on screen to include
London • Toronto • Florida + NWF remote members (rsvp req'd)
How: **Website Redesign Team will lead the way:**
*** UX design ***

*This could
be cool....!*

Dear NW Fruit Member,

Our organization is living in new world since we first cancelled our 2020 Winter Field due to the emerging concerns over Covid 19. Not long after that, we lost our Garden Designer, leader, and friend Kristen Johnson to illness. As NW Fruit president, I've spent many hours consider the question, where do we go from here. I've had many creative ideas and heard lots more from many of you. And now it's time turn our dreams into plans and actions.

If you share my interest creating a new future for WWFRF-NW Fruit and wish to help plan that future, please join us for the **Design Retreat** scheduled for **July 10, 2022**. We are hoping people will join us live for the meeting, we will also be conducting it on Zoom for those who can't attend in person. We will send a Zoom invitation to the Zoom portion of the July 10 retreat will be sent to current members a few days before the event.

This retreat provides a great opportunity to share your interests and visions for NWF. The first part of the meeting will be devoted to a "deep dive" into the work being done to create a new website with responsive communication for members as well as direct access to educational information about fruit growing in the Pacific Northwest.

The introductory presentation by our international website design team at our board meeting on 6/25/22 wowed our board members and left us eager to see the next level of development. The new website will be a great source of current information as well as place to browse topics of interest. The design team needs your help to assure it will best meet the priorities and needs of NW Fruit.

Then those joining us in person will share lunch. The live meeting will happen in the community room of **Village Community Services on Stoney Point Drive in Arlington**. We invite pot-luck dishes and we'll provide several entrees for vegetarian and non-vegetarian preferences. Delicious food from creative cooks! We will close the meeting with an introduction to the process for updating the Vision and Mission statement for our organization. I'm really looking forward to this retreat and hope many of you will consider joining us live or on zoom.

Bob Baines • NW Fruit President

*** To RSVP to attend the July 10 event in person, please send *
an email to info@nwfruit.org to let us know. Now or soon!**

Two Weekly Work Parties – Beautiful Days For Learning



**Thursdays 9 to 12, except in December, also
Saturdays 9 to 12, July 2, ev other week thereafter**

Back by popular demand – An extra work day opportunity for aspiring volunteers who can't come on Thursdays. Please bring a water bottle, hat, small pair of hand pruners. Come help thin fruit from the trees. Park in the parking lots on the North end of the Garden. It's a great day for fun, friends, learning and the opportunity to serve your community. Contact Tom Wake at info@nwfruit.org

Mark your calendars: July 2, 16, 30 and August 6, 20

Fruit Garden Report

Spring has been busy with approving new projects and seeing progress on ongoing work in the Fruit Garden. Many of the regular weekly volunteers are now leading work groups that manage specific content or projects. The work group model has been around for a number of years but is now expanded to keep track and monitor trees and shrubs, work with volunteers on seasonal projects and coordinate with Tom Wake, the Garden Manager. The orchard is flourishing so we are adding Saturday work parties.

Thanks to Hal and Jeanene Torrance we have three new nesting boxes mounted in the Garden. Two are owl boxes and one is a kestrel box. These boxes and the additions of several raptor perches are a way to encourage raptors into the area, with the hope they reduce the rodent population. Thanks to Hal and Jeanene for taking on this project!

The Fruit Garden Committee approved and funded a new project: the installation of a border of native plants as a demonstration and display area for pollinators and beneficial insects. Working in collaboration with WSU, our volunteer display garden colleagues, and with Dr. Bob Gillespie, a Wenatchee Valley College retired entomologist, the Pollinator/Beneficial Plant Group developed a plan to create the new border using the central portion of the former cherry tree espalier in the NW section.

The wires of the espalier will be used to train the crabapple trees in the new border. Native trees, shrubs, perennials and grasses are being planted to attract pollinators and insects beneficial to maintaining a healthy garden. Larry Hedgepeth and John Keefe acquired plants from three counties for this project. Also, our display garden colleagues, the Native Plant Society donated perennials from their collection which will be planted in the fall. WSU has also installed two new pollination areas on their campus, with educational signage, which together with our new border will contribute to greater habitat for these essential insects.

The New Labels project for varieties in the Garden continues to progress with the help of John Keefe.

Fruit Garden Report, continued



In the 'No Good Deed...' tradition, the Fairfield's financial contribution is closely followed by the chore of implementation.

Many thanks to Jennifer and Richard Fairfield for their generous donation to the Fruit Garden Fund. Their allocation of money allowed for the purchase of two EGO weed trimmers which are much appreciated and are getting good use. Additionally, with the Fairfield's donation the new kiwi structure was upgraded, wire was purchased for the blueberry netting, with some money left over for miscellaneous needs, including extra batteries and the construction of a secure shed to store the trimmers and to re-charge them. Richard built and installed the "battery closet" as an addition on the back of the Master Gardeners' building, for access to electricity there. Thanks to our MG colleagues!

Eight new blueberry plants representing four varieties were recently added to the blueberry rows. The group of volunteers that manage the blueberries chose Liberty, Aurora, Legacy and Chippewa to plant this Spring. This year the blueberry rows receive a new layer of mulch using cardboard and wood chips. As for apples -- a Belmac, Ashmead's Kernel, and Jonagold apple trees were planted recently in the Garden.

The NW Fruit website is receiving an upgrade and we are looking forward to better access and outreach to membership and the public. Thanks to all the Fruit Garden members for answering the surveys and contributing comments, all of which has helped to focus the effort to develop the website. Hope to see you in the Garden.

Colleen Sanders
Fruit Garden Committee Chair

Hog Fuel for Blueberries, donated in May 2022 by

North Hill Resources

4600 651 N. Hill Blvd, Burlington 98233
360-757-1866 • NorthHillResources.com

Thank You!

Western Washington Fruit Research Foundation (NW Fruit)

Membership Form

Please check one box ONLY: ☐ Renewal ☐ New Member

DATE: _____

Name _____ Email address _____

Address _____ Phone # _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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 at Name)
- _____ \$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 (Thursdays 9am-12noon; Jan-Nov.)
- _____ HELP AT THE WINTER FIELD DAY (2nd 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

30th Anniversary of WWFRF

(the Western Washington Fruit Research Foundation, aka NW Fruit)

By Sam Benowitz

As our organization celebrates 30 years this presents an opportunity to look forward and to look back. I hope you will join me at our 30th anniversary potluck on Thursday, July 7 at the WSU Mount Vernon station as we look to the future while also recalling our journey that has made us what we are today.

Dr. Robert (Bob) Norton began the outstanding fruit varietal research for our region at Mount Vernon more than 50 years ago. In those early years fruit growers from all over the broad region west of the Cascades, were cooperating with Dr. Norton and his crew in sharing the work with the public.

When Dr Norton retired in 1991 WSU explained that they were phasing out their budget for fruit varietal trials at the Mount Vernon station. Several of us cooperators decided to form a research foundation to raise money so WSU could continue the fruit varietal trials and so we could have some say about the projects. We formed this organization because we thought it the best way to promote and continue this work as a public service.

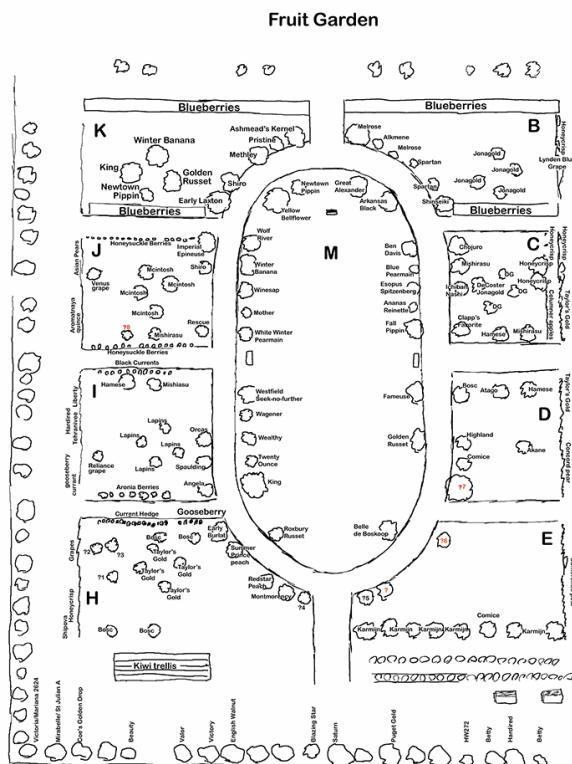


Thirty years ago, in early 1992, Don Shakow (university professor of economics and fellow fruit enthusiast) and I called a meeting at the WSU Mount Vernon station in conjunction with the Western Cascade Fruit Society. As I recall, Bill Davis, De Arbogast, and Dick and Marilyn Tilbury were at that meeting. We decided to form Western Washington Tree Fruit Research Foundation (later to become Western Washington Fruit Research Foundation (WWFRF), now known by trade name, NW Fruit).

We decided WWFRF should be separate from the Western Cascade Fruit Society (WCFS) which is another group of growers inspired by Dr. Norton's work in Mount Vernon. By contrast, our motivation was primarily to be involved with research while WCFS focused more on continuing Dr. Norton's other legacy of disseminating information to the public through events and newsletters all over the Seattle and Puget Sound region. Although WWFRF was theoretically not limited to activities at the WSU Mount Vernon station, in practice our activities have been mainly at the Mount Vernon station. Don Shakow was the first president and I was the second, followed by T.K. Panni, Chuck Holland, Kristan Johnson, Sue Williams, Kim Siebert and our current president Bob Baines.

For almost twenty years we raised about \$20,000 a year to pay WSU for fruit research trials of thousands of varieties brought in from around the world to evaluate which were best for Western Washington fruit growers. This work allowed fruit gardeners in our region to succeed with proven cultivars, a blessing not afforded to gardeners in most climates around the nation. We could do this for a relatively afford-

But fortunately, back in 1996, WSU got to working with the Master Gardeners Program and the Native Plant Society, along with WWFRF, on the concept for a Discovery Garden. My longtime friend, the late Kristan Johnson, landscape architect with a degree from Ohio State, had recently completed planning and installation of a garden for the City of Port Townsend. Kristan had studied permaculture and had a celebrated fruit garden at his house in Shine, Washington, near the Hood Canal bridge. Hired for a small fee but mostly working as volunteer, Kristan designed the harmonious layout for a stately fruit tree demonstration garden and went on to design the paths for the balanced, connected Discovery Garden for the Master Gardener program and the Native Plant Society, on WSU property at the Mount Vernon station. Kristan devoted himself then and continuing over ensuing decades, serving as volunteer, leader of ambitious projects, fruit garden chair and president at NWFRF.



Not Kristan's original drawing, but an early drawing nevertheless, courtesy of Kim Siebert. This illustration clearly portrays the fruit garden layout so familiar to all who've been there.

from a June 2021 Newsletter tribute to Bob Norton
by Sam Benowitz

...Around the 1996 time period, Kristan Johnson and I went with Bob on one of his countless tours of the fruit trees at the station. We went to the block where we expected to see the handsome, mature Hudson's Golden Gem tree. It was one of our favorites for flavor and we looked forward each year to sampling the apples. The tree had been cut down. We asked Bob why and he said that it had been fully evaluated, duly noted as among the best, and subsequently needed to be removed to make room for new varieties to test.

We were incredulous. From Bob's standpoint as a researcher, removing the tree made perfect sense. But from the standpoint of preserving trees of the best varieties so growers and home gardeners could sample and remember the fruit, it made no sense at all. That is when we realized the need for a Demonstration Garden, to preserve the best proven varieties and to teach people how to grow them successfully.

After all, the WSU Mount Vernon station was called a "Research and Extension Unit" and we were supporting the "Extension" part.

So when WSU funding priorities changed around 2008, the Volunteer Display Gardens and the many educational activities there had become an established cultural attraction for the Skagit Valley community and a valuable window and resource for WSU.

Many people worked with Kristan for years to bring the garden into being and to help it thrive. De Arbogast was the first Fruit Garden Manager. Bill Pihl with his old backhoe transferred many plants that were scheduled for removal from WSU trial grounds into the Fruit Garden. Kristan, using Bill's idiosyncratic backhoe, moved some of the trees and shrubs also.

Today our six-acre fruit demonstration garden has a well respected reputation for our work, our knowledge and for WSU, thanks to the learning and hard work of so many volunteers. There are always opportunities for more volunteers, new volunteers, young volunteers, and volunteers with new skills for broader publicity. And there will always be kudos for those who join!

Led by Fruit Garden manager Tom Wake and Fruit Garden Committee chair Colleen Sanders, dozens of volunteers keep this garden thriving. The volunteers gravitate to groups that focus on types or projects in the garden. We try to encourage and model organic growing practices.

NW Fruit volunteers provide seasonal Field Day events for demonstrations of pruning, grafting, pest control, healthy soil and other techniques, plus samples of the delicious fruit as they ripen in summer and fall. Bill Davis is among our highly knowledgeable home fruit growers who teach many skills to the public. Tom Thornton of Cloud Mountain Farm has taught many classes over the years as have many others. Some volunteers wear many hats.

Other volunteers contribute to administrative operations and serve on the board of directors; others work on the website, newsletter and outreach. We are always seeking to involve more fruit lovers in the various aspects of our organization, so if you want to be involved let us know by emailing info@NWfruit.org.

Benefits of Membership

Annual membership costs **\$25/year for Individuals and \$40/year per Family** (Parents with their minor children). Other categories of memberships are also available, including Donors, Sustainers, Commercial, etc. Visit nwfruit.org to download the membership form OR use the membership form found in this newsletter.

- FIELD DAYS/ OPEN HOUSES and WORKSHOPS are **free to members**. Membership ensures your inclusion in various emails about events and other news.
- Invitation to special events, such as Volunteer Appreciation Day, Website Planning Retreat, plus all members are welcome to attend Board meetings.
- The Apple & Pear Sample-the-Harvest Day
- The Winter Field Day/Open House - lectures, demonstrations and sale of scion wood and root stock sale for apples and other fruit trees.
- Several workshop days are offered each year, sometimes with fruit sampling, depending on the season.

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 June 2022. If the email begins "Hello NW Fruit **Friend**" then your membership is not current at present. Membership expires on the anniversary of the last payment.

NWFruit.org Website Reimagined

We're excited to announce we've been working on a website redesign for NWFruit.org. Our site has been maintained during the past decade by Kim Seibert, who in her capacity as Secretary, and later President, brought a depth of institutional knowledge and certitude to our organization. Kim has served on the WWFRF board of directors in many rotating positions from Secretary to President and has been an inspiration to us all for her dedication to our organization. Her recent departure from the board left a huge gap which has been challenging to fill.

Change, as with the seasons and the fruit tree blossoms in Spring, brings new opportunities. Feedback from NWFruit members indicated we needed a more interactive website, perhaps with an interactive calendar of events and a members-only portal with additional content. The question then was how to accomplish this?

Thanks to Bob Ness, a volunteer gardener and consultant to our board of directors, we learned about **DemocracyLab.org**, a website that connects non-profit organizations that need assistance with information technology (IT) infrastructure with IT professionals. These professionals volunteer their time and skills to help non-profits achieve their IT goals. DemocracyLab.org runs 48-hour **'hackathons'** every two months. This was intriguing, but the next hackathon was the weekend of April 22, 2022, **just days away**. Celeste Frisbee, our newest board member took on the task of creating a project proposal and submitted it along with the talent requirements we were looking for, namely User Research Experience professionals and Website Designers. We made the deadline and were approved to participate, but our application lateness meant we would be pitching our project at 4:00 AM PT, Friday morning. Ugh...set those wake-up alarms.

Bleary and not quite fully caffeinated, we pitched our project among several other participants. Their projects were amazing! How could we attract volunteers with this level of competition? Imagine our delight when we entered our Zoom breakout meeting room and found several persons willing to work with us during the next 48 hours.

Even more amazing was that these talented people, after working mostly non-stop during the weekend and providing us with initial research about user experiences on our website and an initial wireframe for a redesigned site, **wanted to continue** to work with us through the end of June 2022 to achieve a website redesign.

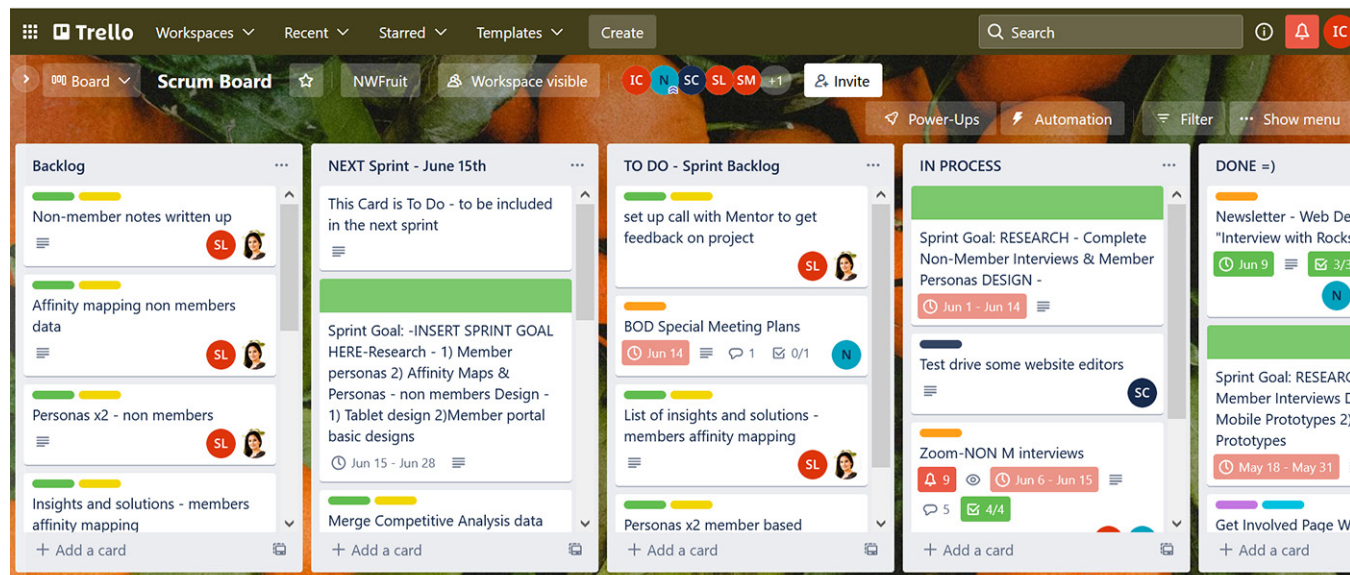
Let us introduce our multi-national dream team:

Sarah lives in London, England, and is a User Research Experience web researcher. She mentioned she has learned more about fruit than she ever thought possible and has even sponsored a fruit tree with a UK organization.

Shruti lives in Toronto, Canada, and is a User Research Experience web researcher. She works full time but manages to find time to devote to helping us realize our goals.

Sarah (Siraccha) lives in Florida, and is a User Interface web designer. She has already created an interactive mobile web interface for a redesigned NWfruit.org site based upon the research conducted by Sarah and Shruti. Siraccha is her nickname, a definite help with keeping the two Sarahs distinct.

These talented and focused people have in the past two months conducted interviews with WWFRF members and non-members to identify usage patterns and needs for persons visiting our NWFruit.org website. During the process, they've used tools such as Calendly, Cardsort, Slack, Trello, and Zoom to



coordinate interviews, define objectives and tasks and have managed an interactive, team-based agile scrum development process. Additionally, we estimate they have given us over 160 hours of their professional time!

This is the first phase of our website reimagining, in which we've discovered how people navigate the website and what they expect. From this emerges a redesigned user interface perhaps containing features such as an interactive calendar or a members-only portal. The next step will be deciding upon a website software development platform and recruiting IT developers, again through DemocracyLab.org, where we can bring the reimagined website design to fruition as a functioning website. The future looks promising!

| Top Five Most viewed pages: | Views |
|---|-------|
| #1: Recommended Fruit Trees for Puget Sound | 1,671 |
| #2: Home page | 632 |
| #3: Retail directory | 239 |
| #4: Growing Grapes | 218 |
| #5: Fruit Tree Care Calendar | 203 |

From website analytics in April-June 2022

We'd also like to thank our members who participated in design research interviews with our DemocracyLab.org team. We'll be posting more volunteer opportunities in the future and soliciting more feedback, giving you an opportunity to make your voice heard and help shape the future of our organization.

By Ira Collins, NW Fruit Board Member

Seattle Comes To Mount Vernon

By Bob Ness



Photos from Bob Ness

Lunch in the orchard was followed by hands-on practice with **thinning apples**, along with a demonstration on **sharpening hand tools**.

I participated in the session, but since I took pictures, am not in the group photo. Bob believes we could hold such informative sessions **once a month**, expanding our connections with City Fruit and other organizations.

This session was part of a larger curriculum for City Fruit volunteers which prepares them for

WWFRF President Bob Baines led a symposium for the **City Fruit Master Fruit Steward class of 2022** on Saturday, June 11. City Fruit is a Seattle-based organization, their Master Steward Program trains volunteers to help maintain fruit trees on public and private property in the Seattle area.

City Fruit volunteers heard Bob Baines describe the history and current operations of NW Fruit and answer specific questions regarding fruit tree cultivation, maintenance, pest control, varieties best suited for cultivation, and more.



certification to care for urban fruit trees in Seattle. These sessions at the orchard will make stronger alliances and connections, recruit volunteers and members for NW Fruit, and provide a public education service that aligns with our mission.



Handy tool sharpener!

Visions for Collaboration

By Laura W. Wilson

Through the years, the next surge of funding and volunteer horsepower is always a quest. At a recent NWF Strategic Planning committee meeting in May 2022, guest expert Zsafia Pastor shared her experiences of working with schools. All attendees were enthused to contemplate her vision — Encourage everyone to grow food.

Many schools in the region have school gardens and have fruit trees on campus. Many schools lack the knowledge for maintenance practices. Zsafia Pastor, born in Hungary brings memories of her grandparents farm life there. She came to US, earned credentials in horticulture, as arborist, college professor and founder of non-profit [Farmer Frog](http://www.farmerfrog.org/). This educational site is located east of Woodinville, northeast of Lake Washington, with a mission to “cultivate programs, school gardens and hand-on learning to nurture communities.”

Strategic Planning Committee members expressed interest in including children in NWF programs. Pastor was eloquent in describing the benefits and challenges. “It is critical to bring children into the garden to learn and experience the rewards of gardening and farming.” STEM curricula typically provide for robotics, aerospace, digital data, etc. — but less of the life sciences. To prepare the next generation, focus on teachers. Offer Continuing Education classes, field trips. NWF volunteers could provide on-site expertise at school gardens — the condition of school gardens is patchy, many have garden space but it’s neglected. Teacher schedules are busy, it’s a long range planning challenge to set up classes that teachers can attend.

The vision is to prepare the way, help schools, teachers, rekindle the energy and knowledge for growing food. Our Pacific Northwest urban landscapes can be fertile; families benefit immensely from learning to grow food at home. Strategic Planning members also talked about funding opportunities, at federal and local levels, from USDA grants to matching dollars from local sources and charities. NW Fruit could train teachers as a feature among other activities we do. This meeting in May was a good stimulant for new ideas regarding NW Fruit planning.



[Tour](http://www.farmerfrog.org/) the Farmer Frog property with Raintree Nursery's Laura Sweany and Zsafia Pastor

See also: <http://www.farmerfrog.org/>



Zsafia Pastor at NW Fruit Garden in 2014, Pruning Gooseberries



Haskaps

By Sam Benowitz

Here is a feature about one of the forty fruit collections in the demonstration garden. With each of our collections there are continuing discussions about how to best care for the plants. Also, to have the best varieties in our garden, there are discussions as to which new varieties to add and which to replace. This important work is done by volunteers on the Fruit Garden committee in consultation with the board of directors.

Our garden has many edible fruit plants that grow very well in our region but that most people have not heard of. We introduce these plants to help gardeners consider them for their gardens.



Known by many common names, ***Lonicera caerulea***, is often called Honeyberry and sometimes Blue Honeysuckle. The same Genus and species that are from Japan are usually called Haskaps. They are valuable edible plants for gardens in our region and they need relatively little care. Growing to about 5-6' tall and wide, the haskap bush is a handsome ornamental plus it produces lots of delicious blue berries in June, before any other fruits are ripe.

The NWFruit collection consists of two rows of mature plants with numbers, not names. These mature plants are seedlings, not advanced selections, therefore we are evaluating the fruit to decide which of these plants to keep. We also have named cultivars that have been selected for our climate and we should fully evaluate them.

To expand our collection to include more of the best proven cultivars for our region, there is a company called Haskap-Oregon.com. They have collected Dr. Maxine Thompson's best named selections for Maritime climates. Among these are Kawai, Taku, Chito, Tana and Keiko. They represent a range of ripening times. Also Northwoods Nursery and One Green World offer some good maritime Russian varieties and Russian Japanese crosses that we don't yet have.

If you are familiar with the honeyberries we'd love to hear from you. Send your Haskap notes to SamBenowitz2@gmail.com. Recipes are always welcome!



Did You Know...?

[This link](#) will take you to **Station 5** on our **Garden Tour** -- our info sheet about Haskaps. The entire tour is accessible under the tab "Take The Tour" at NWfruit.org.

NW Fruit General Membership Meeting

March 12, 2022

12:00 noon • Held in the Master Gardeners Pavilion

Kim Siebert nominated Scott Terrell to serve as a director, seconded by Colleen Sanders. Passed unanimously.

Sam Benowitz, Jay Scott, Dennis Davenport, and Bob Baines were re-elected as directors.

Board meeting following the General Membership Meeting

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

This slate of officers was unanimously elected:

President – Bob Baines

Vice President – Ira Collins

Secretary – Celeste Frisbee

Treasurer – Dennis Davenport

Meeting ended 12:30 pm

Respectfully submitted by outgoing Secretary Kim Siebert

NW Fruit Board of Directors Meeting

11:00-1:30 on March 26, 2022 • Meeting held on Zoom

Board members attending: Bob, Dennis, JoeAnne, Celeste, Scott, Sam, Colleen, Ira

Guests: Tom, Kim, Laura

- Publicity Committee – Colleen was appointed as chair. Sam and Bob agreed to serve on the committee and it was agreed that the chair or a member of the newly formed Event Coordination Committee always sit on the Publicity Committee.
- Event Coordinating Committee – Bob Baines will serve as chair. It was agreed that both the Winter Field Day and Apple/Pear Day would be organized by this committee. If the Northwest Garden Show reinitiates (post Covid) a NW Fruit booth would be arranged by this committee. If there is a Volunteer Coordinator in the future that person will participate on this committee.
- Strategic Planning Committee — The Board supported the proposed DemocracyLab Initiative Project and asked to be updated regularly. Bob Baines, Celeste Frisbee and Bob Ness are on this committee.

Minutes submitted by Colleen Sanders with the help of Kim Seibert.

Western Washington Fruit Research Foundation (NW Fruit)

Donor 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 _____ Email address _____

Address _____ Phone # _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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)

PLEASE SEND YOUR DONATION ALONG WITH THIS FORM

WWFRF
C/O Kim Siebert
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.

Thank you!

Upcoming Events

Learn more about all that's going on and new ideas being proposed by joining us at upcoming events this summer. First up is our 30th Anniversary Celebration in July.

- July 7, 11am-2 pm Potluck Lunch and Celebration of 30th Anniversary at WWREC
No admission fee, all are invited.
- Website Design Luncheon/Workshop July 10 - Board of Directors invites all members!
- Volunteer Appreciation Picnic - on a Thursday in August
- Unveiling of website redesign - Target date in September.
- The Apple & Pear Sample-the-Harvest Day is usually the 2nd Saturday in October, but check your September newsletter for changes due to warm weather.
- On-going except December: Fun and educational Thursday Work Days. Now this month we've opened Saturday work days, for aspiring volunteers who can't come on Thursdays.
- Several workshop days are offered each year, sometimes with fruit sampling, depending on the season.
- The Winter Field Day/Open House which recently changed to the second Saturday of March. This event consists of hands-on pruning, grafting and budding; talks on insects and pests; scion wood sale and root stock sale for apples and other fruit trees.

Hope to see you soon,

Bob Baines • President NW Fruit