



NW Fruit

June 2023

Western Washington Fruit Research Foundation, aka NW Fruit.org

in cooperation with

Washington State University, Northwest Washington Research and Extension Center

16650 State Route 536, Mount Vernon, WA 98273

Open House ♦ Saturday June 24, 2023

Three Skagit Gardens – One Location

10 am to 2 pm ♦ Free Admission

Located on the grounds of Washington State University (WSU) Northwestern Washington Research and Extension Center (NWREC), Skagit Valley is home to three demonstration gardens operated by volunteers as a learning resource for the public.

Annually, on the last Saturday of June, the gardens host an open house where visitors are welcomed to spend a day with the volunteers who maintain the gardens, to learn more about the gardens and gardening.

Bring a picnic and picnic blanket while you enjoy 8 acres of gardens. Bring your family and friends. There will be children's activities.

Discover the Demonstration Gardens

- ♦ **Skagit County WSU Extension Master Gardener**
Discovery Garden features 30 themed garden rooms on 1.5 acres with ADA accessible paths and educational displays.
- ♦ **Salal Native Plant Garden** is a half-acre oasis of native plants in a woody natural habitat.
- ♦ **The Fruit Garden** is six acres of fruit trees and berries in varieties that are suited for our climate. Find informative signage and examples of espaliers, along with volunteers to demonstrate pruning and other seasonal care practices.

◆ *Open House Activities* ◆

Tour the Gardens - Go on an exploratory tour of the three gardens with our **Discovery Passport** and map. See plants chosen to perform well in the Pacific Northwest. Learn about effective garden practices, soil health, composting, pollinators, fruit tree pruning, native plants, weed identification, and more.

◆ **Discovery Garden - Ask a Master Gardener**

- ▶ Skagit County WSU Extension Master Gardeners will be on site to answer your questions.
- ▶ Plant Clinic – Bring us your plant problems.
- ▶ Plant ID – Bring us a plant sample for identification.
- ▶ Educational Displays – Pollinators, local food, soil health, insects and more
- ▶ Free Garden-Tool Sharpening
- ▶ Skagit County Noxious Weed Control Board – Activated in 1979 this board provides public information concerning invasive weeds.

◆ **Salal Native Plant Garden**

- ▶ Docents available for tours and to answer questions

◆ **Fruit Garden - Visit with NWF volunteers**

- ▶ Tour the Antique Apple Collection in the orchard's inner oval.
- ▶ Tour the entire orchard
- ▶ Summer Pruning Demo
- ▶ Fruit Thinning Demo

If you can't make the open house, all three gardens are free to visit, open to the public seven days a week from dawn to dusk with signage and self-guided tours.



Fruit Garden Report ♦ Spring '23

This is the first year we have co-chairs of the Fruit Garden Committee — Sam Benowitz and I are sharing the position. I can report that he has been a huge help in sharing his expertise and especially in coordinating garden events. Sam's help has been important as this has been a very busy spring with good numbers of volunteers on Thursdays and Saturdays.

The Winter Field Day in March was a huge success. In addition to many of our members enjoying the event, we added 45 new members. Thanks to our volunteers, especially Sam and Tom Wake for organizing it, and to Scott Terrell for publicizing the event.

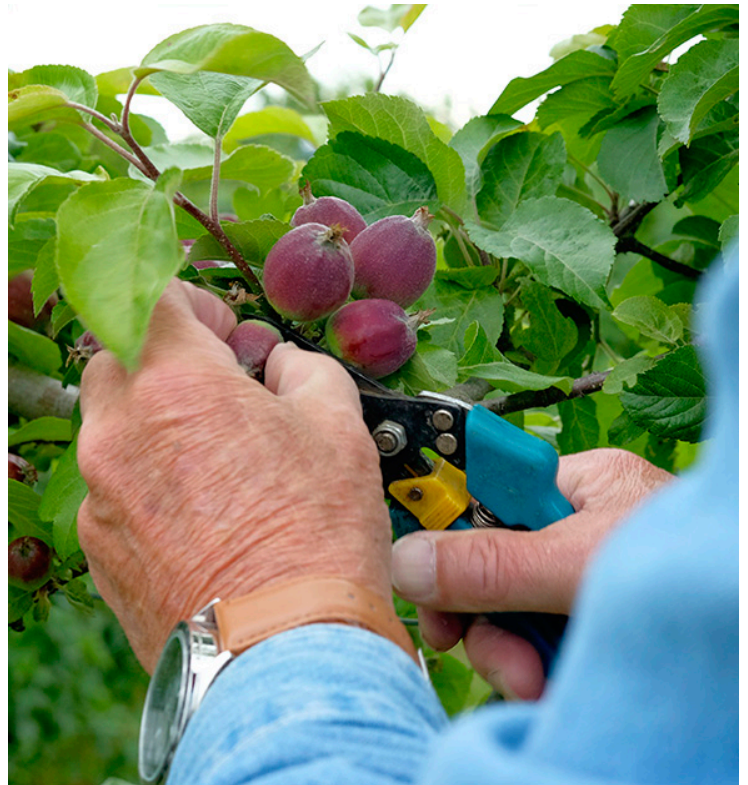
The project to expand and refurbish the nursery has started. There will be a fence planted deeper below ground and improved irrigation. In expanding the perimeter of the nursery we have added room to graft and grow new trees and continue to have a stooling bed project. The water supply line and irrigation system for the hedgerow has been installed. Thanks to our volunteers, the hedgerow is being weeded and is growing well. This Spring seven new cherry trees were planted in the west espalier and in the cherry tatura. We hope these disease resistant varieties do well; White Gold, Vandelay, Black Gold, Kristin and Tahraniivee. New blueberry shrubs were planted; Duke, Elliott, and Jersey. A Greensleeves apple tree was also planted this Spring. The Fruit Garden Committee will meet later this year to assess apple trees for health and vigor.

With the approval of the Board of Directors, the Garden purchased a shipping container to store our maintenance materials and supplies. It is located adjacent to the garden alongside WSU's containers. The riding mower is now stored in the container and is more accessible for us.

We continue our efforts to control the vole/mole populations. Larry Hedgpeth has organized our mowing and trimming crews in an effort to keep the grass shorter, especially around the trees and shrubs. With so much growth this time of year it takes a lot of hours, a lot of effort to keep the six acres mowed and trimmed. We are seeing less vole activity around the blueberries but we still have areas that need our attention, particularly around the peach trees and in the oval area.

The Fruit Garden Committee has set the date for the Summer Volunteer Appreciation Day Picnic to be Thursday, August 31st, at 11:00 am. Please mark your calendar and join us for lunch. It's a great day to visit the garden and meet the volunteers.

See you in the Garden.



Timely thinning, within 30-40 days after flowers fade, maximizes fruit size and quality. One apple per 6" of branch is good spacing. Fruit trees repay good care.

Colleen Sanders
Fruit Garden Committee Co-Chair

What NWF Volunteers Can Do & Learn

Our Northwest Fruit six-acre demonstration garden is a collection of [40 different exhibits](#) of tree fruits and berries. In our 30 year old fruit garden, we have hundreds of fruit varieties that have proven to thrive in the maritime Pacific Northwest.

NWF member volunteers come to the garden each Thursday and some Saturdays to do the gardening work to make the garden thrive. Half way through each session we stop to share information plus some delicious, often garden-related snacks. NWF volunteers span the gamut from skilled amateur fruit growers with decades of experience to people who are just beginning and want to learn from our well-worn volunteers. All are welcome to join NWF and, if they wish, to work in the garden.

What we do each week depends on what is needed in the garden. Garden manager Tom Wake announces through email one or more timely projects that a bunch of people will choose to work on. Among the tasks are pruning, grafting, thinning, mulching, mowing, weeding, pest control and, yes, when the time is right, picking the delicious fruit to take home and enjoy. Some of the fruit grown in the garden is organically managed, using minimal and [OMRI \(Organic Materials Review Institute\) approved and listed sprays](#).

One of the best things about the garden is that, within an organized structure, each volunteer gets to choose what they want to work on. We use the Work Group structure for organizing. The garden is divided into many sectors with leaders, see next page. Volunteers can choose a plant group or several plant groups that they are primarily working with, in coordination with the leaders.

The Work Group list shows the fruit groups we are working on, along with the volunteer who is currently managing each group. The groups are all open to volunteers, many of the groups are open to co-managers.

Each group meets to decide what they will be doing, and communicates with the NWF Fruit Garden Committee, a committee of garden volunteers. The FG Committee figures out if any new equipment is needed or what specific cultivars need to be added or removed. The Fruit Garden Committee reports to the NWF Board of Directors, also made up of volunteers, at the board's periodic meetings.

Come and join us at the garden. You will meet great people and learn a lot you can apply to your home garden. Even though we have many stalwart volunteers there is a heck of a lot of work to do — we can use your help!

Sam Benowitz, NWF Fruit Garden Co-Chair

Note: NFW Membership is required for volunteering in the Fruit Garden.

Weekly Work Parties – Find Schedule at NWfruit.org

Thursdays 9 to 12

Saturdays 9 to 12, check website for dates

2023 season is underway, with Saturday workdays just begun. This extra work day offers opportunity for aspiring volunteers who can't come on Thursdays. Dress for the weather and bring a hat, water and a pair of hand pruners. Come help with seasonal pruning and fruit thinning for optimal crop load! Park in the parking area at the north end of the Garden. These workdays are great opportunities to learn about growing fruit, meet friends, and to contribute to caring for the Fruit Garden.

Please contact Tom Wake or Colleen Sanders for details, at info@nwfruit.org.

GARDEN WORK GROUPS 2023 LEAD

Peach Group	Bill Davis
Blueberry Group	Beth Jones
Gravensteins Group	Bob Baines
Organic/Sustainable Apple Trees Group	Colleen Sanders
Kiwi Group	Richard Fairfield
Oval Trees	Bill Davis / Larry Crum
Nursery	Ned Garvey
Haskaps Group	John Keefe/ Sam Benowitz
West Fence Apple Trees Group	Scott Terrell/John Keefe
Currants/Honeyberry Group/Medlar Tree	Peter Rueckert
Section E3/E4 Group	Bob Baines
East Pear Espalier	Carol Jacobsen/ Carol Butz
East Espalier Apples/Slender Spindle Apples	Jennifer Fairfield
South Fence Plum Trees	Hal Torrence
Persimmon Trees	Jeanene/ Hal Torrence
Grape Vines Group	Bill Pierce
West Espalier Apple/Pear Trees	Bill Pierce
Cherry Group	Larry Crum
Karmijn de Sonnaville Row/Apples of E1	Sam Benowitz
Mulberry/Quince	Faraneh Cooper
Pollinator/Beneficial Pollinator Border	David Alvarez



From the Peach Group: We maintain 21 trees in the Fruit Garden: peaches, nectarine, apricots, and surprisingly, two almond trees. When visitors are interested in growing peaches in this region, we ask: What kind of a tree do you want? That is, are you looking for vigorous growth? Heavy fruit production? Resistance to disease? In the garden, we have one variety that is an energetic grower, but has failed to produce peaches. We have varieties advertised as curl-free whereas we discover that some are and some are not resistant to peach leaf curl. Soil and climate are also of major concern.

These photos demonstrate an effort to renovate an older tree of the Betty variety. We have two such older trees in the garden that are experiencing some success. It is worth the effort because both varieties produce heavily with good tasting fruit. In the photo you can see that John and Bill are attempting to use a grafting technique called top working, to renovate an off-balance limb.

John Quast and Bill Davis showed me this bark graft on a Betty peach. Photos from Laura Wilson.

News, Opportunities & Announcements



The Fruit Garden has earned Washington's ***Habitat at Home*** designation for lands that offer wildlife food, nest boxes, even a raptor perch – as shown in the photos on this page..
Thanks to Kay and Hal Torrance for this accomplishment!

2023 WWFRF/NWF President: Hal Torrance

“Members are invited to share ideas and concerns with me directly.” Write to: haltorrance@gmail.com

Welcome to New Commercial Member

[Mikado Tree Care LLC](#), Loren Fuell, arborist.
The company offers tree and garden services.
425-263-0349

Facebook Page Coordinator

Post updates and channel inquiries to members who can answer. To offer your help, please email sambenowitz2@gmail.com.



Consider Becoming NWF Membership Chair

From home you can help NWF with database know-how. Work with our Publicity, Events, and Education Committees -- all good teams ready to cooperate.

An energetic extrovert chair might also correspond with our many related organizations to promote collaborative working relationships.

Please email kimsiebert@gmail.com to offer your help.

NWF Seeking Skilled Fruit Garden Designer

We are looking for an experienced garden designer and we thought the first place to look is among our members.

Our six-acre fruit garden was designed by Kristan Johnson who passed away about two years ago. Kristan was a landscape architect and the former president of our organization. If you look at a diagram of his garden design you can see it includes symmetrical groupings of fruit trees and bushes around an inner and outer oval of now mature fruit trees. Kristan's design includes sight lines and areas for people to gather. We now have 44 different plant areas each with a vibrant group of fruiting plants – hundreds of plants.

Since his death, our volunteers have maintained the plan. We have removed and replaced a few plants that were not thriving, but we have not wanted to add plants that would stray from Kristan's design.

Our fruit garden volunteers have ideas for new plants to include. We would like to work with an experienced designer who can understand and progress with Kristan's vision, someone with whom we can have a dialog about the plants we want to add, to help us figure out what and where to plant while thoughtfully expanding on our existing design. We need someone who can translate our ideas into skilled drawings.

We don't require a person to be a landscape architect. We would love to talk with a skilled permaculture garden designer or other skilled garden designers. We are not sure of the best ways to work with the designer and are open to suggestions. We would prefer to have someone who lives close enough to be a part of our ongoing volunteer work in the garden. It is also possible to have a designer who is farther away and could come work with us several times a year.

We are open to discuss paying a skilled designer for their services.

If you are interested, please email Sam Benowitz of our garden design committee at **sambenowitz2@gmail.com** and provide some background about your experience.



A stylized view of Kristan Johnson's 1996 design for the Fruit Garden includes long views capped by large walnut trees plus open walk spaces circulating throughout. Paths connect to neighboring Master Gardeners' Discovery Garden and Native Plant Society Garden, with practical space and access for maintenance vehicles as well.

**Thank You to
North Hill Resources**

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

**For landscaping materials and
continuing support • Summer 2023**

★ **Help is Near** ★
info@NWfruit.org

NWF Members: Send questions about your newly grafted tree or other curiosities in your garden. Include photos. We do our best to answer questions promptly about growing healthy fruit.

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.)

_____ 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 as follows:**

NW Fruit (WWFRF)
C/O Kim Siebert
7904 56th DR NE
Marysville, WA 98270

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, Committee Planning, plus all members are welcome to attend Board meetings.
- Opportunities to recognize and learn about disease and pests that are new within the last two years, as weather conditions change in Skagit Valley
- The Apple & Pear Sample-the-Harvest Day
- The Winter Field Day/Open House - lectures, demonstrations and sale of scion wood and rootstocks for apples and other fruit trees
- Several workshop days are offered each year, sometimes with fruit sampling, depending on the season -- also free to members.
- Open invitation to serve on committees in the garden and in administration
- Open participation in NWF Annual Membership Meeting in March — your opportunity to be elected to serve on the Board of Directors, to be involved with communications, strategic planning, and other administrative opportunities.

2015 photo from Kim Siebert • Our 2023 blueberries have fresh mulch below, along with protective netting above.



WSU Treasure in Mount Vernon

Scratch the surface and you'll find connections to so many knowledgeable groups and interests nurtured by the demonstration gardens at 16650 State Route 536, west of Mount Vernon. Three established public gardens with signs, self-guided tour stations and living specimens to visit and revisit year round. The gardens each also offer membership — opportunities for more in depth participation.

While this newsletter usually focuses on activities of Northwest Fruit (NWF), the volunteer organization that maintains the six-acre Fruit Garden, for the moment let us consider the institutional family within which these gardens are the flowers for the public, so to speak. Still a newcomer in Washington, as your NWF news editor I've been curious to trace the history, the formation of these gardens and to see beyond the intimidating acronyms. Here's what I've learned about this place on the map.

Land-Grant (LG) For Education

Fundamental in the history of the United States, Congress passed legislation to provide education in order to have an informed citizenry. Around the time of the Civil War, not without historical controversy, land-grant colleges were created to teach industrial sciences along with humanities. Washington's first **land-grant college** was established in **1891 in Pullman**.

LG Stations For Experimental Research

In 1887 the US Congress added authorization to use land-grants to create **experiment stations** to cooperate with the colleges in conducting agricultural research at regional levels. Thus when the state legislature created Washington's Agricultural College, it also planned local research for both Eastern and Western Washington.



*12/12/1912: Washington State College appoints George Nelson, agriculturalist for Wahkiakum County, who went on to set up the first **Extension Station**. The first home economics club for girls, Seal River Canning Club began in Wahkiakum County shortly thereafter. Known today as **WSU Research Extension Centers (REC's)**, the launching of four regional Experiment Stations is described page 11.*

WSU Treasure, continued

Puyallup 1894 - After an infestation of hops lice destroyed crops in the Puyallup River region in 1891, the legislature decided to locate the state's first Experiment Station there. Initially on 60 acres of land acquired mostly by gift, **Ross Station** was begun in 1894. The station's first few years were difficult. The parcel had been logged, huge stumps had to be blasted out. In 1897 the Legislature appropriated no money for the station so it closed.



Reopened in 1899, closed again in 1903, it finally reopened for good in 1907 as the **Western Washington Experiment Station**.

Prosser 1919 - In early 1900's, as irrigation projects began to provide for crops, regional leadership rallied for formation of the **Irrigation Branch Experimental Station**, acquiring 197 acres owned by Union Pacific RR as 1/3 gift and 2/3 at reduced price.



In the 1890's south central Washington was chiefly livestock, with grazing for limited herds due to low precipitation. The first employee of the research station in this area was Roy Bean, a scientist who arrived in 1919 to grow different forage crops and conduct research on feeding animals with these materials.



LG County Extension

In 1914, continuing the concept to share the learning, Congress provided for mechanisms to "extend" knowledge from land-grant colleges and research. County Extension Stations were established to issue bulletins and, in the early years, set up demonstration trains to reach farmers and rural communities. Today the WSU Extension Stations' public outreach and agricultural clinics supplement WSU's four, more academically structured Research Stations.

Skagit County Extension (not shown) opened in 1922 in downtown Mount Vernon. It moved to its current location out near the Skagit Regional Airport in 2013. Skagit County Extension is on record for being a most trusted source of information.

Wenatchee 1937 - Beginning in 1921 farmers and the Horticultural Association lobbied for a tree fruit experiment station east of the Cascades. In 1937 with a purchase of 15 acres of orchard and a farmhouse, the **Tree Fruit Branch Experiment Station** was initiated.



Mount Vernon 1947 - Our local Experimental Station began during WWII when scientists from the US Department of Agriculture and WSU collaborated to control devastating diseases among beet and cabbage crops. Subsequently, with strong local community support, in 1947 the WSU research center in Mount Vernon was established to continue research at its present location, originally as the **NW Seed & Truck Crop Lab**, later as the Northwest Experiment Station.

WSU Treasure, continued

Trust & Respect: Each of WSU's research stations is strongly supported by its local constituency, with varying degrees of financial participation from both professional growers and local residents.

Funding Priorities

Though issues have changed since 100 years ago, "the WSU land grant mission has not. What has occurred is an ever evolving ethos of service to meet new realities." (from 2014: 100 years of WSU Extension) This includes responding to challenges due to increased urbanization and its effects on communities and the natural environment, including soil and stream protection, innovations in energy production and promoting wellness.

When Pennsylvania native and horticulturalist Dr. Robert A. Norton became superintendent at the Northwest Experiment Station in 1964, he recognized the need for evaluating familiar fruit cultivars for adaptability to the Pacific Northwest. By 1974 over 500 cultivar varieties from around the world had been tested in Mount Vernon, and established as compatible in our region. This work was only a small part of Norton's duties but the work was highly valued by thriving commercial growers, landscapers and garden centers throughout the region.

How did fruit volunteers get so involved?

As WSU's third superintendent at the station, Dr. Norton pioneered ways for getting enthusiasts involved. Together with his WSU technical assistants, Gary Moulton and Jackie King, while nurturing acres of cultivar varieties for evaluation, they managed to balance the research work with volunteer support. WSU held fruit tastings, scionwood exchanges, grafting lessons and other activities not only at the station but throughout the region.

At these events, which were also supported by many regional commercial enterprises, public attendance blossomed. Many volunteers were willingly drafted and thus became involved with supporting the Northwest Washington Research and Extension Center (NWREC) as its name was updated in 1966.

In the early years volunteers at the Mount Vernon station worked shoulder to shoulder with WSU research experts in all blocks of the extension property. By 1980 broad coalitions of volunteers began to be formalized, beginning with a regional meeting held at the Mount Vernon Station, as Western Cascade Tree Fruit Association (see



Dr. Norton was inspired to create a typical backyard using the fruit trees and shrubs that thrive in the Pacific Northwest. Shown here on a wintry day, the "fabled treehouse" under the massive walnut was part of this earlier inspiration that preceeded the Discovery Gardens.

Thanks to Jacky King for this detail!

[wcfs history by Dick Tilbury](#)) which spawned chapters throughout the region and south into Oregon.

In Mount Vernon volunteers continued working closely with Dr. Norton until he retired in 1991. Sam Benowitz' 30th Anniversary article in the June 2022 NWF Newsletter recounts the story of how Western Washington Fruit Research Foundation (WWFRF) came about in 1992. This foundation contributed funds and labor both, to carry on the varietal research for several more years under the leadership of WSU Garden Manager Gary Moulton, who retired in 2009.

To reckon with WSU's evolving priorities WWFRF members encouraged the transition of NWREC field research to garden preservation as public resource. Having cultivated successful varieties for the region the effort met with a strengthening movement favoring demonstra-



In transition: Healthy cultivars were selected and moved to the nacent fruit orchard for preservation.

WSU Treasure, continued

tion gardens. In about 1994 this movement in Skagit County brought together Master Gardeners, the Rose Society and the Salal Chapter of Native Plant Society to petition NWREC for space to demonstrate along with WWFRF. The cooperative gardens broke ground in 1996 after the NWREC director requested Kristan Johnson to design an overall plan for distinct but integrated gardens.

In 2016 WWFRF President Kim Siebert formalized a shorter, easier-to-say trade name for the organization, using **NW Fruit** on logos and publications as well as its web address, nwfruit.org. [LWW: I find the NW Fruit name most agreeable.]

Although WSU funding priorities for the acreage at NWREC have moved on from varietal research, the display gardens remain a vibrant center of activity, thirty

The Master Gardener program was conceived and developed at the **King County WSU Extension in 1972** to provide solid training for volunteers who then provide public demonstrations and answer questions on home gardening. Within five years this trained-volunteer concept spread to 40 states!

years since the formation of WWFRF and 25 years after the orchard layout. The NW Fruit Garden has become an inclusive, uniquely world-class living museum for a wide audience of fans, visitors, commercial growers and other agriculture experts. It is an especially magnetic center for gathering and learning for its corp of volunteers, many of whom have seen the phases of development since the field was just about empty back in the '70's.

Editor's note: I'd like to thank Dr. Carol Miles, NWREC director and her now retired colleague, Jacky King for useful details concerning this aspect of WSU history.

Vole Patrol: Raptors invited to stand watch.



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 May 2023.

If the email begins "Hello NW Fruit **Friend**" then your membership is not current at present, or will expire in the coming weeks. Membership expires on the anniversary of the last payment.

NWF Publicity

For on-going event plans our **Publicity Committee** is building a mailing list for news publications, schools and other regional gardening groups and nurseries. We generate early poster-flyers and press releases to send them.

You can help by sending contact for your gardening group to info@nwfruit.org. Use subject title "**For Publicity Committee.**"

And, Thanks!

Minutes from NW Fruit Board of Directors meeting, April 15, 2023

Zoom meeting started around 10:10 a.m. Board members present: Bob Baines, Colleen Sanders, Scott Terrell, Dennis Davenport, Ira Collins, Hal Torrence, Larry Hedgepeth, Fareneh Abbasi, Sue Williams and Fruit Garden manager, Tom Wake

Action taken on agenda items:

Nursery expansion: The latest proposal for expanding the nursery was to enlarge the area 6 feet to the east and 6 feet to the west, digging 24 inches down. The new proposal will maintain the current north-south dimensions. In February, \$500 was allocated to the project. A motion was made (Hal) and seconded (Larry) to add \$1000 to the budget. Motion passed.

Mowing: A proposal to allocate \$500 to pay for additional mowing in the garden: The mowing would be done by a member who offered to bring their own riding mower. The money would pay for travel/gas expenses.

A discussion followed regarding outside equipment (not owned by NW Fruit), and insurance and liability issues. Colleen pointed out that the nursery expansion will involve renting a ditch witch. Sam said the job of the board of directors is to protect the members, but the Fruit Garden Committee has work to do. Hal will be talking to Dan Gorton, NWREC facilities manager, about what we are able to do.

Equipment: Appoint Richard Fairfield chair of a new Tool and Equipment Committee with a \$2,000 discretionary budget for 2003: Discussion followed on whether to allocate \$1,000 instead. Larry mentioned Richard had already purchased a DR walk-behind string trimmer because it was on sale for \$300 less. Richard purchased the tool. Colleen said some funds had already been OK'd by the Garden Committee. Dennis pointed out that there was \$4,500 in the budget for tool purchases for this year, which includes \$4,000 from a donation by Richard.

A Motion was made (Hal) and seconded (Larry?) to appoint Richard as chairman of the tool committee and is authorized to purchase tools with the OK from Tom Wake. Motion was approved by a vote of 8-2.

Ask a Master Gardener Day parking proposal: A motion was made (Hal) to allow for overflow parking in the fruit garden (oval at the center of the orchard) during the Ask a Master Gardener event in June 24. The area was suggested for parking by event organizers out of concern that a large enough crowd might overflow the usual parking areas north of the demonstration orchard.

Concerns about cars interfering with orchard tours, potential damage and precedent were aired.

The motion did not pass. NW Fruit will have a booth at the event and planning is underway for other activities by our organization in concert with the larger event, including tours of the fruit garden.

Financial: Dennis Davenport said the investment of NW Fruit funds not allocated for use in this year's budget will be placed in bank Certificates of Deposit in order to take advantage of higher interest rates. Dennis said, "it's a go."

New Business: Sam discussed his desire to establish a design for the fruit garden. It should be developed so that it reflects the intent and goals of the organization. He will be talking to members about what they like and don't like about the orchard design and content. What makes members happy and feel good about being involved should play an important part in the future design, he said.

Fruit Garden Committee Report from Colleen – Recent progress has been made on the following items:

1. Mowing volunteers: training and work parties are being established.
2. The walk-behind stringer has been purchased. This will enable mowing to be done more efficiently under the fruit trees.
3. The grafting project has been completed.
4. The nursery expansion project is underway.
5. Volunteer turnout is up, with four new people coming weekly.
6. The blueberries are mulched.

Motion to adjourn was made (Larry) and seconded (Scott) and was passed. Sam commended Hal for a well-run meeting. Meeting ended around 11:24 a.m. The next BOD meeting has been postponed to July 15.

Kindness and Gratitude *from Jay Scott*

We all have probably had a 'small world' experience. One of mine involves, in a round-about way, the fruit garden. I must have been in the 2nd or 3rd grade and this is one of my earliest, vivid recollections.

After classes I carelessly boarded the wrong school bus. I quickly found my preferred seat in the back row. Rather than immediately recognizing something was odd, I stayed seated on the bus. After the bus departed someone asked me and I assured them I knew what I was doing. I did not. The situation grew more tense as the bus went into unfamiliar neighborhoods.

Eventually I was the only one left. I knew this was bad. I did not know how bad. The bus driver looked in the mirror and called back if I missed my stop. Then he said to come up and talk to him. I was scared and probably crying by that time. This bus driver, teachers, parents, and maybe police were sure to scold me for being so careless.

The tall, young man driving the bus said it was OK and he would just drive me home. What? It can't be that easy. You can drive this bus around like that for just one person? But he did just that. He drove me not to my usual bus stop but insisted on delivering me right to my driveway. What a relief!

About 65 years later, in casual conversation on a Thursday with Garden Manager Tom Wake, we discovered that we both grew up south of Tacoma. Our ages fit. Tom said he drove school bus to my elementary school. Of course he does not recall the incident so long ago. But it was traumatic for me. I was embarrassed and never told anyone. I was so grateful that tall, young man so easily solved the situation. It is just the kind of caring thing that Tom would do.

Tom watches over the busy volunteers.

Photo from Hal Torrence



Find Your Bliss!

NW Fruit volunteers engage in interest groups to manage specific projects. We use the Work Group model to keep track of seasonal projects, and to coordinate with Garden Manager Tom Wake and Garden Committee Chair Colleen Sanders. These work groups offer experience accordingly:

In the Garden

- Tree Fruit, Berries, Espalier
- Stone Fruit, Unusual Fruit
- Pollinator Friendly Plantings
- Irrigation, Construction
- Organic Growing

Or From Home

- Website & Media Updates
- Volunteer Coordinating
- Membership/Mailing
- Database
- Event Planning

◆ ***Special Thanks*** ◆

For many years of dedicated service on
NWF board and as Membership chair,
Thank you to JoeAnne Hilgart!



JoeAnne – ‘Takin’ names!’

Western Washington Fruit Research Foundation (NW Fruit)

Donor Form

To make a donation by credit card go to: NW Fruit.org and click on Support.

Enclosed is my gift of: ☐ \$5000 ☐ \$1000 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$25 \$ _____

Please designate ☐ Where it is needed most! ☐ Fruit Garden
my monetary gift toward: ☐ 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 _____

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(Name of person) _____

Address of person or person's family _____
(So we can notify them)

**Please make check payable to WWFRF
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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!

Annual Volunteers' Picnic Slated For August 31

Members are encouraged to attend our annual Potluck on Thursday August 31 at noon, following the 9 a.m. to noon work session at the fruit garden. Beverages and a main dish with both meat and vegetarian choices will be provided. If you can, bring a pot luck dish.

Even if you haven't volunteered in the garden before – come, eat and hang out! Find out all that's going on and what you can learn in the fruit garden. Annual Picnic is a lot of fun.

Upcoming Events

- 9 to Noon Workdays — Fun and educational Thursday Work Days every week. Plus, now every Saturday in June, later on ± Every-Other-Saturday work days, for aspiring volunteers who can't come on Thursdays. Learn more about all that's going on, and new ideas being proposed, by joining us. For more information contact Garden Manager Tom Wake or Garden Committee Co-Chair Colleen Sanders, info@NWfruit.org
- Several workshop days are offered each year, sometimes with fruit sampling, depending on the season. Free to members.
- Apple and Pear Sample the Harvest Day second Saturday in October. This event centers around the harvest with educational classes on related garden techniques and information. Members and paying visitors are allowed to keep a portion of the harvested fruit. Details in September Newsletter.
- Winter Field Day -- Second Saturday in March at NWREC, 16650 State Route 536. Free admission with up-to-date membership.
- Annual Membership Meeting - March 9, 2024

NW Fruit Thanks Raintree Nursery

Morton, WA

800-391-8892 • raintreenursery.com

For continuing support