

Apple and Pear ♦ Sample the Harvest Day

Saturday, October 12, 2024 from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Pre-register for Oct. 12

Even up-to-date NWF members will save time at the registration tables by pre-registering.

Email info@nwfruit.org with Subject: Pre-Registration On this special day, NW Fruit invites you to taste, harvest, and to learn about the many varieties of apples, pears and other kinds of fruit cultivated at the Fruit Garden. Bags will be provided so you may harvest fruit to enjoy and take home.

Do you appreciate the unique characteristics of oldtime apple cultivars you've encountered, and the stately

beauty of trees they grow on? Be among the passionate hobbyists gathering together to share our experiences and learn from experts. Consult the schedule on next pages, to find out what's in store for you.

Dr. Cameron Peace from WSU Pullman is our special guest speaker, who will tell us about using DNA and rediscovering pioneer apple varieties. We will conclude the day talking about how old time apple enthusiasts can cooperate with our fruit garden going forward. Your tree can participate in this research, see details for DNA collecting, at <u>MyFruitTree.org</u>.

NW Fruit maintains dozens of majestic, pioneer era trees as part of our heritage apple project. The six-acre Fruit Garden is now set up so that, on your tour of the garden, you can access detailed varietal information through posted QR codes, thanks to volunteer expert Larry Crum's international, in-depth explorations on the topic of apples. To get the most from your visit, take time now to visit this link: <u>Origins of Heirloom Apples</u>. Scroll down below the orchard map for Larry's introductory essay. Come with your questions and learn from experienced growers.

Not to be confused with DNA testing, here's another unique opportunity to identify fruit from a tree you are curious about. **Apple identification**: Now, wait. Do not just bring an apple to have it identified. See volunteer expert Lori Brakken's specific and necessary instructions, on page 4, for what and how to

bring your fruit with sufficient background information in order to make a good analysis.

photo from Bob Ness >



October 12 ♦ Schedule of Activities

9:00 a.m. Registration:

Registration tables available in auditorium and at North Entrance to the Fruit Garden. The event is free to NW Fruit members. Those with expired memberships are encouraged to renew ahead of time, at <u>nwfruit.org/become-a-member</u>. Day-of-event registration is available. One-day passes are available for \$15 per person, **check or cash**.

>>> Credit card capability only thru PayPal on your phone. <<<

In the Auditorium:

- **9:30 a.m.** Introduction to activities and talks
- 9:45 a.m. A display to show how apple identification is done. Follow instructions on page 4 to satisfy your curiosity about grandma's apple tree. Lori Brakken



10:00 a.m.	Display and discussion: All about antiq pears in the Fruit Garden.	ue apples and Larry Crum
11:00 a.m.	How and when to pick apples and pear maintenance for fall and winter.	s. Home orchard G ary Moulton
11:30 a.m.	Flavor Profiling: Learn how to discern characteristics of specific apples.	1
Noon	The best old-time apples for this area? and photos from the early 1900's for va in the Pacific Northwest. Step forward our panel discussion when we share wh cultivars we like best, and why.	arieties grown and join

Laure Janzen >



Lori Brakken



Larry Crum



How do geology and the Silk Road relate to apples? >

October 12 ♦ Schedule, continued



10 a.m-2:30 p.m. Fruit picking:

- * Report to Fruit Garden North Entrance for instructions and picking techniques.
- * Pick up a fruit bag after registering.
- * Special tours of the fruit garden are scheduled throughout the day.
- * Visit the fruit tasting tables to sample and evaluate many different cultivars.

And Continuing, In the Auditorium \blacklozenge Current Research at WSU

1:15-3 p.m.

Naming, Rediscovering & Re-utilizing PNW Heirloom Apple Cultivars

Dr. Cameron Peace, a DNA researcher at WSU Pullman, will talk about a statewide project to correctly identify and preserve heritage apple varieties. He will also discuss the topic of you-cando-it-too apple breeding.

Cameron Peace, Ph. D. Horticultural Genetics Find Dr. Peace's work with WSU's Breeding Information Management System at MyFruitTree.org.



Apple Identification Form 🔶 from Lori Brakken

Lori Brakken (206)715-4149 lorineb@mindspring.com 4719 NE 204th St. • Lake Forest Park, WA 98155

There is no charge for ID but please do acknowledge and reply to the **RESULTS** email that you receive from me. Volunteer for October 12

Please consider putting in some time on Apple & Pear Day to assist. We can always use more apple slicers! **Email info@nwfruit.org** to volunteer, even for a limited period of time that day.

Preparing Your Fruit Sample for Identification

Thank you!!

Each sample needs these 3 items listed below.

1. The completed **lower part of this form**, with your contact and apple information. Write clearly. This information is important for a good ID of your apple.

2. **Five mature unwiped RIPE apples with stems**, if apples are unripe, you can wait & mail or drop them off <u>when they are ripe</u> to the address above. <u>Don't use plastic bags for apples because they</u> <u>sweat & rot.</u> Use paper to wrap & hold the apples.

3. Place a **12" stem with leaves** in a <u>plastic</u> bag (not paper for leaves). Paper will dry out the leaves and they crumble so I can't use them.

*** Remember a paper bag for the apples and a plastic bag for leaves ***

>>> Paper bag for apples, plastic bag for leaves, **and this form,** all together in a third bag -- comprises one sample <<<

You can keep the packaged samples in a refrigerator until October 12, or mail them to me in a box.

This form must accompany each sample.

Your Name:______Date picked:_____Did it fall off the tree?_____

Your email Address: _____ Phone: _____

Name you give tree: ______ How was the tree acquired?______

Age of tree:______ Age of property/house_____ Trunk size ______ Height _____

In an orchard:______ Old orchard site:_____ Fenceline/Roadside tree:_____

Is the tree cared for? ______ Irrigated? ______ Shade of other trees: ______

Does the tree produce fruit every year?_____

Do you pick the apples, or does it drop fruit:______Does it keep:_____

Address of the Tree:_____

Please use the back of this form to tell me more about your tree's story...

Fruit Garden Report 🔶 Summer 2024

This summer the Fruit Garden has been a busy place for the volunteers who maintain and care for the trees and plants. The fruit-set this year is very good and we made good effort to summer prune and thin most of the fruit trees.

All the plants that were purchased following the 2024 Garden Plan were either planted out in the garden or planted in the nursery. Sam just completed a long list of nursery rootstock that was budded with scionwood. We hope that these bud grafts work and are successful. With the help of Larry Crum some of the trees in the garden were also bud grafted. The large quince on the west espalier has been grafted with four new varieties, increasing our demonstration of successful quince growing in our region. Several trees that have produced little fruit in the past, are of less desirable variety, or are duplicate varieties, have now been top-worked to a different single variety. A duplicate Asian pear tree was re-worked to an Atlantic Queen European pear by Larry and we look forward to more pears from this desirable variety.

Recently our two wooden sheds were moved over, to be placed nearer the two transit containers. The gravel pad they sit on has been leveled and prepared, making room for a new shed being built by Miller Barns. This 10x15' shed will be delivered next month to provide us with greater storage. The materials that were around the sheds and in the lay-down area are being sorted and consolidated.



Puget Gold Apricot, July 2024

A number of classes were held in the last two months with

very good participation from our volunteers and members. Summer pruning, bud chip grafting and T grafting were taught by NW Fruit volunteer teachers: Bill Pierce, Larry Crum, Sam Benowitz and Gary Moulton. Our thanks to these expert volunteers for their ongoing efforts to teach and pass down their wealth of knowledge for growing healthy fruit!

Our annual Sample the Harvest event will be on Saturday, October 12. There will be educational talks held this year in the large WSU auditorium along with many focused tours in the garden. Please join us for this fun event, a great opportunity to sample and pick many varieties of apples, pears and grapes grown at the Fruit Garden.

We look forward to seeing you in the Garden.

Colleen Sanders, Fruit Garden Committee Co-Chair





Volunteers Learn

Volunteers Carole and Carol

Kristan Johnson, our late Fruit Garden designer, planted many espalier apple and pear trees in a wide variety of stunning shapes. They are now mature, productive trees because of the long-time skilled work of volunteers like Carole Jacobson and Carol Butz.

The two Carols (as they are affectionately known) know each other from co-op housing in Bellingham.

"In 2004 I heard on the radio about a lecture on how to prune at the WSU Mount Vernon station by Dr. Bob Norton," Jacobson said. "After that, I kept coming back."

Carole Jacobson admired espaliers in Gloustershire, England, which she points out is the home of the **Ashmead's Kernel** apple – one of the most highly prized varieties at the Fruit Garden. But she didn't know how to work on the espaliers until she came to the fruit garden and learned from Johnson.



Butz said she drove to the Fruit Garden years ago to learn how to prune her apple tree. She has been volunteering ever since.

The *Skagit Valley Herald* featured Butz and Jacobson in an October 2018 article highlighting their research with thinning fruiting buds on Conference pear trees in the espalier section of the orchard. Today, the two women continue to apply their skills, maintaining the espaliered trees Johnson established years ago. Anyone interested in gaining knowledge for maintaining espaliered trees can hang out with the two Carols on Thursdays.

And Return

Volunteer Tom Wake

Tom Wake came to volunteer in the fruit garden at the research station as it was getting started in the early 1990s. He helped plant the row of **Gravenstein** apple trees. The collection includes 15 'sports' of the variety, all known for their aromatic and intensely sharp flavor when eaten fresh.

Managing, Coordinating and, Transition

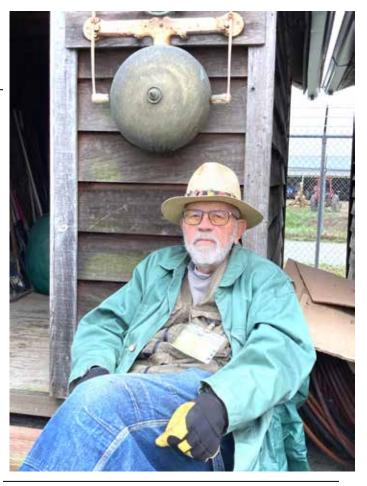
In 2008 Tom agreed to be assistant to the first garden manager, a volunteer position. Soon after, that manager left and Tom took over.

"The garden manager takes directions from the NWF board of directors and the fruit garden committee, and translates it into action by coordinating the volunteers," he said.

Tom also serves on the WSU Umbrella Committee, representing NW Fruit in monthly discussions with WSU, Master Gardeners and Native Plant gardeners.

After 16 years of managing the garden, Tom says he will now recruit one or more volunteers to assist with the job so he can eventually pass the torch. Anyone who is interested in helping Tom can find him at the Fruit Garden sheds on Thursday morning, coordinating activities for the day's work.





Volunteer Hazel Sittner

On a blustery day during winter in 2007, Hazel Sittner came to the fruit garden and saw Bill Pihl and Kristan Johnson planting some of the Fruit Garden's trees. She shared hot drinks on subsequent visits. "I started bringing decaf 15 years ago and I've been bringing snacks ever since then," Sittner said.

That has evolved into the significant sharing that Hazel organizes on Thursdays. When that 10:30 a.m. bell rings, volunteers gather to talk, share coffee and other goodies that Hazel brings to the table. Others bring treats – often garden oriented – like fruity jells, biscuits, savory spreads and even pumpkin blossom pancakes. An important time for sharing updates and information.

Hazel has come to appreciate the volunteers. "We have physicists, retired schoolteachers, lots of high caliber people as volunteers. We are all on the same page and love working together. I count the helpers who come here as my friends and I look forward each week to working with them," Sittner said.

Recently Hazel has worked in the plant nursery too.

South Dakota Peonies

Tom Wake's relatives came from Norway and settled in South Dakota. Although Tom's career has been in construction engineering, his uncle and other family members ran a tree nursery where Tom worked as a kid. In the 1930s his great uncle bred a beautiful peony variety that Tom grows today in his garden, along with fruit trees.



Northwest Fruit (aka Western Washington Fruit Research Foundation)

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	e of membership and/or extra donation:							
\$25 FOR ANNUAL INDIVIDUAL M	IEMBERSHIP (One person only)							
\$40 FOR ANNUAL <u>FAMILY</u> MEMB	ERSHIP (Parents with their minor children)							
\$ FOR <u>GIFT MEMBERSHIP</u> FOR: (F	\$ FOR <u>GIFT MEMBERSHIP</u> FOR: (Please note For Whom, above at Name)							
	\$125 FOR ANNUAL <u>COMMERCIAL (List Only)</u> MEMBERSHIP (Includes 3 people, and also includes business name on our website)							
\$200 FOR ANNUAL <u>COMMERCIA</u>	<u>L (Full)</u> MEMBERSHIP							
(Includes 3 people, and also inc	ludes 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	s (please check all applicable lines):							
FIELD WORK IN THE WWFRF I	RUIT DISPLAY GARDEN (Thursdays/Saturdays, 9am to noon)							
BY DOING WORK I CAN DO A	T HOME USING MY COMPUTER OR TELEPHONE							
Please make your check payable and MAIL your completed membersh and check to this a	i p form PO Box 864							

Many Hands Make Light Work

Please consider joining the **Membership Team**. From home you can help NWF with database know-how. Or offer some time for our events by helping at the Registration Tables.

Send a note of your availability to info@nwfruit.org.

Learning and Doing

Winter pruning in March with Bill Pierce >





^ And in August, with Bill, Larry Crum and others. \lor





The art and science of pruning require practice and observation over time. Expertise and the outdoor laboratory are made available for NW Fruit members.









August Budding Class

About 20 volunteers learned budding skills and helped generate trees that will be available for the fruit garden in a year or so. *Budding* is commonly done near the end of summer and involves the bud from first-year wood. *Grafting*, which uses a piece of first-year wood (scionwood) with dormant buds, is done in spring. Both involve matching the cambium layer, of the scionwood or bud, to that of the root stock or host plant.

< August grafting workshop. Three steps for chip budding. • Thanks to Scott Terrell



Nursery Report ♦ Summer 2024

Volunteer in the Nursery

The nursery provides space for up to fifty juvenile trees, potted trees and the stoolbed for growing rootstocks. All these, in time will supply the Fruit Garden as we maintain the varieties and replace diseased cultivars. **So important and what a great place to learn!**

Please tell Garden Manager Tom Wake that you are interested.

During August more than 50 trees in our nursery were summer budded and most of the buds 'took'. These trees will be available to add to the fruit garden in December of 2026 after they have grown for two years in the nursery, should the fruit garden committee decide to have them planted out.

Four new Quince varieties were budded. New peach trees were budded on Krymsk 1 rootstock including new varieties Blazing Star and Contender. Several leaf-curl-resistant varieties that did not do well last spring were rebudded to provide new healthy trees. Plums added, on Marriana 2624 stock, include Beauty and Kuban Comet.

Apples not now in the garden were budded on M 26 rootstock. This includes Fort Vancouver, Cherry Cox, Williams Pride and Flower of Kent. On M111 new trees were budded of Mother, Wealthy, Blue Pearmain, Spitzenberg and Ananas Reinette to possibly replace trees of those varieties struggling with anthracnose in the inner oval.

On M27 rootstock, scions from several of our Gravensteins were grafted last winter and rebudded where needed, to provide fresh trees to replace older anthracnose damaged trees. Eight similarly new Karmijn trees are growing well, to be available to plant out in December 2025. *Malus fusca* rootstocks are thriving, with grafts of Orcas and Rescue pears, plus Ashmeads, Liberty and Akane apples. They should be ready in December 2025. Also Bud 9 interstem was successfully grafted on *M. fusca* to make new, very dwarf trees for wet soils.

Assorted apple and plum rootstocks were planted in our nursery stoolbed, they will be ready this winter to cut back to the ground to induce suckers for making new roostocks.



On October 12 NWF volunteer expert Bill Pierce will lead a garden tour for "**Growing Fruit on a Trellis**." More info from WSU on <u>peaches</u>.

Our Peach Trees in 2024

To control peach leaf curl it is necessary to spray in the winter. From about New Years Day until early March the buds crack open and are susceptible to leaf curl when it rains. Treatment after this period is not effective. As we found out this year, in wet winter years even leaf-curlresistant peaches can get severe leaf curl if not protected. Sprays that work include Ziram or for an organic approach, use Lime Sulfer or Copper. If possible get up to three sprays on, at two to three week intervals when it is not raining.

Covering the trees so they don't get rained on can also prevent fungal infection. A trellis under the eaves would be good.

Sam Benowitz, Fruit Garden Committee Co-Chair

Favored By Famous Founding Father

Among the 191+ varieties of apple at the Fruit Garden, one of these old types is the **Esopus Spitzenburg**, dating from the 1700's in Ulster county New York.

The "Spitz" was the favorite apple of Thomas Jefferson. Herman Melville mentioned this apple in "Bartleby, the Scrivener". It was also celebrated by Henry Ward Beecher (sibling of Harriet Beecher Stowe, of *Uncle Tom's Cabin* fame) in an 1850's sermon on apple pie. Now, that's a good sermon!

Come to Apple-& Pear Day at the garden on October 12 and pick a few Spitz's. They are said to be even better if you let them mellow for a month or so.

P.S. to you anglers: The Esopus is a *classic* trout stream that flows through Saugerties in the Catskills of New York, perhaps shaded in spots by Spitz apple trees.

from NW Fruit volunteer Jim Hendrix



Esopus has also been spelled Aesopus.

Northwest Fruit (*aka* Western Washington Fruit Research Foundation) Donor Form

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

Enclosed is my gift of:\$5000\$1000\$500	_\$100\$50\$25 \$			
Please designate Where it is needed my monetary gift toward: Field Days and other	d most! Our Fruit Garden her events			
Name	Email address			
Address	Phone #			
City State	Zip			
Please make my gift: In Honor of: In Men	nory of:			
(Name of person)				
Address of person or person's family (So we can notify them)				
Please make check payable to:	NW Fruit or WWFRF			
and mail your donation	P.O. Box 864			
along with this form to:	Mount Vernon, WA 98273			
Your gift is tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed	by law. Please consult your tax accountant for details.			

Thank you!

Benefits of Membership

Western Washington Fruit Research Foundation (WWFRF), aka NW Fruit is a 501(c) non-profit organization created thirty years ago. Your annual membership dues support the foundation that maintains the six-acre Fruit Garden, a collection of hundreds of varieties of fruit. It offers members and the community hands-on opportunities to learn about fruit growing in our region through advocacy, education and demonstration.

- Field Days and Workshops are free to members.
- Apple & Pear Sample-the-Harvest Day, second Saturday in October, offers garden tours and lectures on growing and harvesting fruit. Members are offered samples of apples, pears, grapes, and sometimes cider, to take home. Crop quantities vary from year to year.
- Winter Field Day, second Saturday in March, offers tours, lectures on fruit growing, grafting demonstrations, plus sale of scionwood and rootstocks for grafting apple, pear and other fruit trees.
- Workshops are held in Spring and Summer on learning to prune apple, pear, plum, and cherry trees, as well as blueberry bushes, grape and kiwi vines.
- Volunteers who help with maintaining the orchard are rewarded with formal and informal learning opportunities as well as fellowship with other people who are passionate about growing and tasting fruit.
- As a member you may volunteer to work in the Fruit Garden on designated days. Members receive instructions on maintaining the trees, safety, and growing conditions in the local climate. Membership is required for all volunteers to work in the garden.



m A picnic for volunteers is held in the summer.

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- Members receive the NWFruit newsletter three times a year with current information about the organization's activities and fruit growing.
- Membership ensures your inclusion in occasional emails about Field Days, special events and workshops that occur through the year.
- Membership helps NWF pay expenses for: Events: auditorium, speakers & publicity Garden Maintenance: tools & equipment
- Members may attend board meetings, join committees and participate in committee planning.

Weekly Work Parties – Find Schedule at NWfruit.org

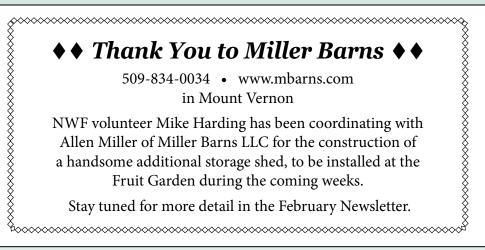
Thursdays 9 to 12

Saturdays 9 to 12, check website for Saturday dates

In spring we will continue Saturday work days, for aspiring volunteers who can't come on Thursdays. Dress for the weather and bring a pair of hand pruners. Come help with seasonal pruning and collecting scionwood for our March field day. Park in the parking area on 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.

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

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



NWF Interest Groups

NW Fruit volunteers engage in interest groups to manage specific projects. Some administrative tasks could benefit from modernization. Your skills are welcome. We use the Work Group model to keep track of seasonal projects, and to coordinate with Garden Manager Tom Wake and Garden Comimittee Co-Chair Colleen Sanders. These work groups offer experience accordingly:

In the Garden

- Blueberries, Cherries, Kiwi, Pears, Heritage Apples, Elderberries, Peaches, Persimmons & more
- Pollinator friendly plantings
- Espalier training
- Construction projects, Irrigation, Organic Growing

Or Administrative Support

Website & Media Updates Volunteer Coordinating Membership/Mailing Communications **Event Planning** Publicity

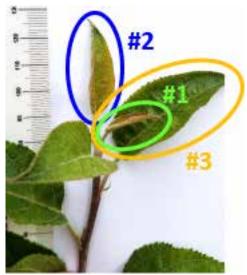
Finding Your Tree's Roots - with DNA Sampling

How can old-time apple enthusiasts participate going forward? It is historic that we are all getting together to see what is being done in the NW Fruit garden and in home orchards throughout the region.

Dr. Cameron Peace will tell us about the nonprofit, public research lab located in Washington State University's Department of Horticulture, where he works with fruit tree geneticists to discern differences among apple trees in the U.S. and around the world.

MyFruitTree.org is a website designed to help facilitate an understanding of and appreciation for the diversity of apple trees in our landscape and heritage.

Anyone interested in sending in leaf samples for a "simple" test to DNA-identify an unnamed apple can directly send a sample to his lab. The cost is \$50 per sample. Go to <u>MyFruitTree.org</u> to read exactly how to do this.



Fruit Garden Plant Count - After 2024 Inventory completed, 9/15/24 (Not including Nursery)								
	Т	otal Pla	ant Count - 606 •	Total	Variety C	ount - 689		
Almonds	3		Haskaps	19		Quince plus 5 grafts	2	
Apple trees	191		Kiwi	6		Sea Buckthorn	2	
extra graft varie	eties	62	Medlar	1		Walnut	4	
Apricot	2		Mulberry	3		Ribes bushes	25	
Aronia	8		Nectarine	3		Black Currant	23	2
Blueberries	125		Peach	17		Gooseberries	5	
Cherries	42		Pear trees	65		Jostaberry	2	
Cornelian Cherrie	es 3		extra graft variet	ies	14	Pink Currants	2	
Elderberry	2		Asian Pear trees	16		Raspberry	2	-
Fig	11		Persimmon	4		Red currants	4	-
Filbert	3		Pollinators	12		White Currants	2	
Goumi	1		Pluerry	2		White Currants	2	-
Grapes	7		Plum, incl 5 grafts	27				



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 September 2024.

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.

NWF volunteers have initiated a dues reminder to be sent monthly to members who's year is ending.

How Much is a Peck of Apples?

About ten pounds. Might be about 28 apples but that varies of course. Thirty-two quarts equals a bushel, a peck is one-quarter of a bushel .You measure with a basket or box container, so you are measuring volume instead of weight, the weight of bushels and pecks will vary depending on the type of food.

Did your mother sing you that happy song from *Guys & Dolls*, way back when? Mine did!

from NW Fruit volunteer Laura W. Wilson



Upcoming Events

- 9 to Noon Workdays Fun and educational Thursday Work Days every week, plus frequently scheduled Saturday work days, for willing volunteers who can't come on Thursdays. Learn about all that's going on, plus new ideas being proposed. For more information contact Garden Manager Tom Wake <u>info@NWfruit.org</u>
- Several NWF workshop days are offered in spring and summer, 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 are allowed to keep a portion of the harvested fruit.
- Cider Making on one or two Thursday's after Apple and Pear Day in the fall.
- December Celebration with cookies and end-of-season farewells. Program may include informative classes to answer home gardeners' questions. Free to Members.
- Winter Field Day -- Saturday, March 8, 2025 at WWREC,16650 State Route 536. Free admission with up-to-date membership. Details in February Newsletter.
- Annual Membership Meeting March 8, 2025



Photos from Scott Terrell

