



the BeeLine



Fall 2013

Newsletter of the Western Cascade Fruit Society

14th Annual Salt Spring Island Apple Festival
Sunday, September 29, 2013

www.appleuscious.com

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**Washington State Fair—Sept. 6-22—Puyallup
WCFS Booth organized by Tahoma Chapter**

**WCFS Chapter Volunteers needed to man booth.
Take a 4 or 5 hour shift or two and work with other Chapter reps.**

Contact Terry Tomlinsons for shift info:

terryatmarys@comcast.net

or Bill Horn for parking pass:

253-770-0485

hornbill66@msn.com



The BeeLine is a quarterly publication of Western Cascade Fruit Society, a non-profit 501(c)3 corporation in the State of Washington.

Fruit Tree Soils 3 by Jeb Thurow, SSFS

Nitrogen, ah yes the superstar of the nutrients. Everywhere you look nitrogen (N) and its sidekick pH get all of the attention. In the PNW with our maritime climate, nitrogen can give us challenges with our cold wet soils. We will break this article into two sections discussing the basics of nutrient cycles this article and covering what we can do to keep our trees going strong through the year in the next. So first we start with a little science.

Nitrogen is one of the most abundant nutrients around. Our atmosphere is 78% N₂ however with its strong triple bond it is unavailable to plants and animals. The nitrogen cycle is a very complex and for lack of a better word, a very leaky system. If you go to Google images and type in “nitrogen cycle” there are hundreds of different images to explain the nitrogen cycle so I will concentrate on the highlights for the PNW. Our biggest concern is how we can keep nitrogen in the soil during our cold wet winters. There are two terms that will help explain how we can keep nitrogen in the soils. Mineralization is the breakdown of large, insoluble N-containing molecules into smaller and smaller molecules until the N is released, usually as NH₄⁺ There are many forces at work here, but for our purposes we just need to look at it at the macro scale. Only about 1.5 to 3.5% of the organic N is mineralized annually.

Immobilization is what we are really interested in for our purposes; it is the opposite of mineralization and is the conversion of inorganic N ions (NO₃⁻, NH₄⁺) into organic forms. The best way I can think of to illustrate this is to think of what happens when you plant a new tree then put fresh woodchips around the base. As the microorganisms start to breakdown the woodchips there is so much carbon there that they have to scavenge NO₃⁻ and NH₄⁺ from the soil thus causing biological immobilization. Most of the N is tied up in the microorganism's cells till they die and is either converted into N in the humus complex or is mineralized and can be used by the tree again. What we see is the tree turning yellow from N deficiency then greening back up after we add more N.

So what does this science tell us? For our cold PNW soils we need to have a very robust microbial community around our trees. By having this strong community reaching out beyond the drip line we can ensure that this N cycle is getting all of the support it needs. By using well composted chips around your trees you make the best habitat for those fungus and microbes to live in. The more nitrogen that we have immobilized into the living organisms, the less we have to be washed away during the winter. It is all a very big cycle with N in all of its different stages throughout the cycle.

If you have questions or comments you can contact Jeb at CJThurow@hotmail.com

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The Fall 2013 BeeLine was produced by Editor Marilyn Couture, with input from membership. Please contribute your articles for our next Winter issue!

Issue Deadlines:
Winter December 15;
Spring February 15;
Summer May 15;
Fall August 30

Email your articles to:
 Marilyn Couture: couture222@msn.com
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Attention WCFS Members

Want to know instantly what's happening in the organization?
 Subscribe to the WCFS Forum. It's a benefit of membership. The Forum is private and closed to the public. It keeps us together and on top of what's happening in our chapters. Click on this link and follow the prompts:
<http://lists.ibiblio.org/mailman/listinfo/wcfs>

Judi Stewart, Forum Administrator



The Myth of Cloroxed Clippers

“A bleach solution is the best choice for disinfecting pruning wounds and tools”

The Myth

Anyone who has made an investment in top-quality pruning tools probably cleans and maintains them on a regular basis. But would you clean them every day - maybe several times? If you are worried about potentially transmitting plant diseases such as fire blight, Dutch elm disease, and sudden oak death, then such a cleaning regimen would be crucial. Furthermore, you might be inspired to disinfect the pruning wounds, especially those made on diseased trees and shrubs. The question is – what to use as your disinfectant? Nearly all of the popular web sites with advice regarding tool disinfection recommend using liquid chlorine bleach in a solution. Is this the best choice?

The Reality

Before disinfection, tools should be free of dirt and debris so the disinfecting solution can reach every cutting surface. Disinfectant solution can be carried into the field in a tightly sealed plastic bottle; ideally this bottle should be wide enough so that tools can be dipped directly into it. Disinfecting solutions should not be allowed to contaminate the soil.

Pruning tools that are regularly disinfected need to be kept in top condition. The older the blades, the more pitted they become; these pits can harbor microbes that are unaffected by quick sterilization. This is especially true of bacteria associated with active cankers; the sticky matrix is often difficult to remove from pruner surfaces.

I do not recommend the use of chlorine bleach for disinfectant use in the field for a variety of scientific and practical reasons:

- 1) Tool damage: For Clorox as well as other brands of bleach, “prolonged contact with metal may cause pitting or discoloration.” Indeed, this includes your pruning tools. Bleach is an oxidizing agent, which means it is corrosive.
- 2) Clothing damage: This is self-evident.
- 3) Human health damage: Chlorine bleach is listed as an acute and chronic health hazard. Contact with bleach will irritate your skin and your nose, throat and lungs if vapors are inhaled. Medical conditions such as asthma, chronic bronchitis and obstructive lung disease are aggravated by exposure to chlorine bleach. To minimize health risk you are supposed to wear impervious gloves and safety glasses.

4) Plant health damage: Bleach is extremely phytotoxic, more so than any of the other commonly used disinfectants. Any bleach left on your pruning tools will damage the tissue of the next cut. Likewise, those pruners sold with reservoirs that release disinfectant as they cut should never be used.

Other disinfectant treatments include:

Alcohol dips (ethanol or isopropyl alcohol): Alcohols are readily available and moderately safe and effective to use. They can be expensive, however.

Copper compounds (copper oxide, Bordeaux mixture): These are powerful fungicides and readily available. However, they probably are not the most environmentally friendly choice.

Household cleaners (Listerine, Lysol, Pine-Sol): Readily available, moderately safe, can be extremely effective. Lysol (the original, phenol-based material) in particular was found to be least corrosive to pruning tools. This is my personal choice.

Trisodium phosphate (Na₃PO₄): Like bleach, this compound is corrosive and probably not a good choice for field work.

Finally, disinfectants should never be applied to pruning wounds, though old literature from the 1930's and 1940's often recommended this practice. This just adds insult to injury, making it more difficult for the plant to treat the wound with its own arsenal of disinfectants. Indeed, more recent research has established that pruning wounds treated with ethanol and other disinfectants had more cambial necrosis and wood discoloration than tissues left alone. Treated wounds were inhibited from forming the callus tissue that protects damaged tissue.

The Bottom Line

Choose a disinfectant that is effective, readily available and affordable, relatively safe to handle, and won't harm your tools or clothing. Many household cleaners fit this description. Be sure to clean tools of dirt & debris before disinfecting. After dipping your pruning tools, be sure to wipe away excess disinfectant to avoid injuring the next plant. Like pruners, increment borers should always be sterilized before and after use. Never use disinfectants on pruning wounds; they are phytotoxic and cause more harm than good.

For more information, please visit Dr. Chalker-Scott's web page at <http://www.theinformedgardener.com>

Linda Chalker-Scott, Ph.D., Extension Horticulturist and Associate Professor,

Plant Diseases to be on the alert for:

1. *Pseudomonas syringae* infection, which can result in blackened leaves and twigs on pear.

From pnwhandbooks.org:

Symptoms and symptom development depend on the species of plant infected, the plant part infected, the strain of *Pseudomonas syringae*, and the environment.

- Flower blast: flowers and/or flower buds turn brown to black.
 - Dead dormant buds, common on cherries and apricots.
 - Necrotic leaf spots (entire clusters of younger, expanding leaves may be killed on filbert trees).
 - Discolored and or blackened leaf veins and petioles resulting from systemic invasion and infection.
 - Spots and blisters on fruit.
 - Shoot-tip dieback which appears as dead, blackened twig tissue extending down some distance from the tip.
- Stem cankers: depressed areas in the bark which darken with age. A gummy substance often exudes from cankers on fruiting and flowering stone fruits (this symptom is referred to as "gummosis"). If cankers continue to enlarge, they may girdle the stem and subsequently kill a branch or the entire plant. IF the outer tissues of the canker area are cut away, the tissue underneath shows a reddish brown discoloration. This discoloration may also occur as vertical streaks in the vascular tissue. Shoot tip dieback was the most common symptom observed on 40 woody deciduous plants collected from Pacific Northwest nurseries (Canfield, 1986). *Pseudomonas syringae* was isolated from all plants having the tip dieback symptom. Plants most commonly and most severely affected were maple, dogwood, filbert, blueberry, magnolia, lilac, oriental pear, aspen, and linden.

From a scientific abstract online...

The susceptibility of thirty-three pear cultivars and two pear rootstocks to four virulent strains of *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *syringae* was evaluated by inoculating detached immature fruits and young leaves. The four strains were similarly virulent and did not show cultivar specificity although they were isolated from different pear cultivars and exhibited different biochemical profiles. The most frequently planted pear cultivars, Conference, Abate Fetel, General Leclerc, Williams, D. Comice, El Dorado, Alexandrine, B. Anjou, Passe Crassane and the rootstock OHxF 333 were susceptible to *P. syringae* pv. *syringae*.

2. Apple replant disease is fungal in nature in the PNW. Other fruits can also be affected. The soil accumulates organisms over time that a mature tree fend off. Then you pull it and put in a young, tender tree that has problems.

Short of fumigating, you'll want to replace as much soil as you can to give the new trees a chance at growing/ maturing a bit before they hit the accumulated bad organisms.

5 to 8 year rotations of pome fruits is recommended.

<http://www.tfrec.wsu.edu/pages/organic/Replant>

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WCFS NEW MEMBERS**STFS**

Ronald Weisberger
Blake Goff
Mary Burki

OOS

Susan & Rene Toff
Gerry Christensen

SSFS

Teresa Lim
Louise Gilman
Barbara Morson

NOFC

Mica Munn
Ann Klosterman
Ruth Gordon
Marla Streater
Roger Short
Anita Trotter
Martell Knapp
Rebecca Byers
Andrew Byers

PFC

Larry Anderson
Steve Anderson
Hayden Starbuck
Miriam Dunn
Cindy Schwarzkopf
Denise Syrett
Don Wyatt

In Memoriam
PFC lost life member
George Boggess



Apple Mosaic Disease by Jim House OOS

In apple mosaic disease, the leaves of the apple tree show a lack of chlorophyll (chlorosis), resulting in variegated patterns of yellow to white spots and patches. Chlorosis along the veins is a characteristic feature. Other signs are poor growth, dead leaves and branch tips, and deformed fruit.

Apple Mosaic Disease Pictures: Pic 1) Chlorosis of a leaf; Pic 2) Chlorosis around veins; Pic 3) Chlorotic spots on leaves; Pic 4) Stunted fruit.



Pic 1



Pic 2



Pic 3



Pic 4

The disease is caused by apple mosaic virus and may decrease production as much as 60%. Symptoms may be more apparent in the spring and vary according to the viral strain and the susceptibility of the apple variety, with Jonagold, Golden Delicious and Granny Smith varieties being quite susceptible. Transmission is mainly by an infected scion being grafted onto healthy stock, but transmission by natural root grafting may occur. Transmission by injection is possible but transmission by insects is not reported.

Some hosts of apple mosaic virus that may show signs of disease include plums, roses, hops and birch. There is no treatment for infected trees and recommendations vary on the course of action for infected trees from pruning to removal.

Personal experience: This spring my Jonagold apple, to which I had grafted 3 different apple varieties, showed extensive the signs of apple mosaic disease. I removed the tree.

Further reading: <http://www.dpvweb.net/dpv/showdpv.php?dpvno=83>

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WCFS Board Meeting
 September 21, Saturday
 More Info: call Paul Mallary
 (253) 833-4085
 paulmallary@gmail.com

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Pearleaf blister mite by Jim House OOS

The pearleaf blister mite (*Phytoptus pyri*) causes blisters on the leaves of pear trees and may damage foliage, causing early leaf drop. Fruit may be scarred or russeted. The early lesions occurring on new growth appear as raised, reddish blisters and turn brown as they progress.

Pearleaf blister mite lesions: Pic 1 Erupting leaves following pruning; Pic 2: Young leaf; Pic 3 Upper side of mature leaf; Pic 4: Underside of a mature leaf, lesions with necrotic center.



Pic 1



Pic 2



Pic 3



Pic 4

The pearleaf blister mite is discussed as causing lesions on apple leaves and fruit, but a similar appleleaf blister mite (*Phytoptus mali*) is also described. The mites may affect snowberries, mountain ash, cotoneaster, quince, serviceberry and other plants.

The cylindrically shaped mites can be seen with a 20-30X hand lens. The female mite overwinters under bud scales and lays eggs in the spring. Summer generations require only 10- 12 days to develop and several generations occur during the growing season. As leaf lesions develop, the plant tissues at the center die and leave a hole through which mites enter to feed on deeper leaf tissue (Pic 4).

Biological control has not been very successful but there are a variety of treatments ranging from organically acceptable to pesticides. Mineral oils of various compositions may be used either throughout the year or as a dormant spray (follow the directions for the specific product). The best time to treat blister mites is in the fall after harvest when the female mites begin migrating to the terminal buds. Information on available treatments is provided in links 2 and 3 below.

Further reading:

- 1) <http://jenny.tfrec.wsu.edu/opm/displaySpecies.php?pn=330>
- 2) <http://pep.wsu.edu/hortsense/scripts/query/displayProblem.asp?tableName=plant&problemID=104&categoryID=3>
- 3) <http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/r603400511.html>
- 4) http://oregonstate.edu/dept/nurspest/pear_leaf_blister_mite.htm

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Compared to last year at this time, I've been finding many more **tent caterpillar cocoons** on my fruit trees and berry bushes. Be on the lookout for cocoons now while they can easily be removed and destroyed. If not eliminated or dealt with, these cocoons will remain on your trees through the winter, all set to hatch this spring. Judi Stewart

<http://gardening.wsu.edu/library/inse003/inse003.htm>



SUMMER PRUNING

by Dr. Robert Norton

Everyone knows you prune fruit trees in the winter when they are fully dormant, right? Well, not exactly. Here are some of the cases in which summer pruning (June-September) may be preferable and even essential to do at this time rather than waiting for winter:

1. Old trees with moderate to high vigor that have grown too tall or that have been topped or butchered in the year or two previously;
2. Young trees with excessive vigor, i.e., more than two feet of new growth. This applies to any type of fruit tree, but is particularly applicable to plums, apricots, cherries, and peaches. More on this later.
3. Cherry trees of any age that tend to be getting too tall and out of reach for anything but the birds;
4. Peach, apricot, and plum trees that send up vigorous, non-fruiting shoots (2-4 feet) in the interior of the tree;
5. Non-fretting branches of pears and other fruit types that tend to become too rigid and unbending before they have the opportunity to carry a crop load. Explanation to follow.

Here is an explanation of why summer pruning is sometimes justified and, in fact, preferred. Dormant pruning, in fact all pruning, is a dwarfing process. A non-pruned tree always will be larger than a pruned tree. Pruning removes plant tissue that developed as a result of photosynthesis, which occurs in the leaves during the growing season. Dormant pruning results in local stimulation of growth in the vicinity of the cut, so it may seem as though it is resulting in more growth. Summer pruning, on the other hand, reduces the photosynthetic factory production and provides little or no local stimulation of growth. Looking back at the examples of summer pruning above, can you now see why this type of pruning can be the preferred method in some situations? Let's go into a little more detail with the examples.

1. Old trees—apples, pears, plums, and cherries, especially. First, be sure that these older trees are in generally good health and vigor. They may not be carrying a crop, better if they are not cropping heavily, and better if they are in the off year of production. On the other hand, if the trees have made only a few inches of new growth by the first of July, it is better to delay pruning until the following dormant season. Once you have decided the trees are good candidates for summer pruning, look at the upper part of the tree canopy to see if there are major vertical or otherwise upright branches that can be cut back to similar-sized lower branches, particularly ones growing more closely to the horizontal position.

These branches may come from deep within the tree, and even may be one of the major trunks. This can open up the entire center of the tree to better light distribution on the remaining branches. Never cut back major branches, leaving a bare stub. Always try to cut back to a branch of similar size. In this way you may be able to reduce or avoid the production of 'water sprout', so commonly seen on trees butchered with a chain saw during the dormant season.

2. Young trees with excessive vigor. Here's my "rule of thumb" for pruning young trees. Year one (planting year): concentrate on training new branches to have good branch angles (>30 degrees from the vertical) with spreaders, toothpicks (when very young), weights, or tie-downs to stakes in the ground. Remove only branches that are competing with the leader (topmost shoot) or are too close to other more desirable branches. Year two and maybe year three (depending on the vigor imparted by the rootstock): leave the tree alone to develop spurs and fruit buds. Once the tree comes into production, then let fruiting help to shape the tree. Too many fruits may bend the branches below the horizontal (not good). Thin or prop the branches to keep them above the horizontal. Some fruit trees, especially plums, pears, or even vigorous varieties of apple, such as Gravenstein and Jonagold, may still make excessive growth (more than 24 inches annually). Removing some of this growth in summer will slow down growth and possibly will enhance fruit development of adjacent branches, reduce disease and insect infestation, and generally open the tree to easier access.

3. Sweet cherry trees on the common rootstocks (Mazzard and Mahaleb, sometimes referred to as standard and semi-dwarf stocks). They tend to be strongly upright in growth habit, but by spreading them when young, right from the first year on, you can reduce this vertical growth though only temporarily. The branches still tend to be 'heaven bound'. Newly developed rootstocks, referred to as Gisela 5, 6, or 12, enable one to keep a cherry tree within a reasonable height.

In my orchard I allow them a space of 8'x8'x8' and hope to be able to hold them to this box size by summer pruning entirely. If you have the standard or semi-dwarf type of cherry, prune the vertical growth immediately after harvest. If the tree does not have a crop, you can prune it in mid June, removing upward growing shoots back into two-year and older wood. The earlier pruning will stimulate moderate new growth, which may or may not be pruned again later, depending on how large you permit the tree to become.

Cont. from page 7 Summer Pruning

4. Peach, apricot, and plum trees, especially those that have a light or nonexistent crop (poor pollination, frost or cold) may send up shoots, often from the interior of the tree. These shoots can grow 3-4 feet in one season, often forming side shoots on these vigorous, non-bearing branches. You should easily be able to identify them. They should be removed entirely or cut back to one-half to two-thirds of their length in July or August.

5. Non-fruiting branches of pears and other fruits. Normally, pear shoots grow vigorously upright in the first and second years, but develop fruiting spurs and fruit by the third year, which tend to pull the branches over to a more horizontal position. Cutting these branches back too soon will cause them to stiffen, delay fruiting, and result in a taller tree than if left to bend naturally. However, if the pear branch does not crop, it may need to be spread to at least a 60-degree angle from the trunk or even be removed in favor of smaller branches that haven't lost their bending ability, late June to mid August is the best time to do this.

Editors' Note: If you need more visuals, there is a good video by Gary Moulton of WSU at <http://www.pruning.com/>.

There are interesting of winter pruning of apple trees at http://ciderworkshop.com/Videos/manage_basic_vid4.html

Also, there are some nice photos of summer pruning on a dwarf apple tree at: <http://www.apple-works.com/pruning.html>

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Hildegard Hendrickson has been missing since June 8 when she went on a mushroom hunting foray. For a week after Hendrickson disappeared, 60 searchers on foot, horseback, in a helicopter and with search dogs, combed a half-mile radius of where her car was found but turned up no evidence. Hendrickson, 79, a retired faculty member at Seattle University Albers School of Business and Economics, was last seen June 8 when she told other mushroom hunters at the Minnow Creek trailhead, 15 miles northeast of Lake Wenatchee, that she was going alone to search for morels. Dozens of her friends, many from the Puget Sound Mycological Society to which she belonged and taught mushroom identification for years, gathered in vigils to mourn her disappearance. She was remembered in memorial services at her parish and at Seattle U. as well as the one at the Center for Urban Horticulture. Hendrickson conducted free sessions at the Center for Urban Horticulture in which anyone could bring in mushrooms to have them identified. She was committed to helping novice hunters avoid poisonous mushrooms. She served as Treasurer of Western Cascade Fruit Society 2007-2011.

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Chapter News

North Olympic Fruit Club

Denny McGaughy from Elma had the Dan's Pride fig tested at UC Davis. Denny will be the NOFC featured speaker at our June 4th meeting in Chimacum. He'll talk about the Dan's Pride fig, possible updated results from DNA re-testing which is currently underway and where this fig originated per the test results. Denny's especially adept at answering all 'figgy' questions. A search of Denny McGaughy's name might persuade you to come to the meeting.

Judi Stewart

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Vashon Island

Saturday Oct 12th is Vashon's CiderFest -- a day of tasting freshly-pressed cider & apple crisps, & enjoying island-wide events. Our chapter, in conjunction with other island groups, puts on a really fun day. Please contact Elizabeth Vogt for more details, at eavogt@comcast.net. Saturday Nov. 2nd is our Fall Fruit Show which includes display tables of over 100 varieties of apples grown on Vashon, an amazing variety of other fruits locally grown by members of the VIFC, apple ID done by experts, including Dr. Bob Norton, educational tables, a lecture series, & more. The days events run from 10:00a until ~ 4:00p. Please plan on spending one or both of these beautiful autumn days on Vashon -- we'd love to see you!

New VIFC Officers needed for 2014. We are looking for a new President for 2014, as well as a new Program Chair (or co-chairs). If you are a VIFC member reading this, please consider serving in one of these positions. It's fun & educational being on the Board & the current Board members will help make the transition a smooth one for you. You do not need to be any sort of expert --you just need enthusiasm for learning how to grow fruit. With over 150 family-members, surely 2-3 of you will grab the baton!

Elizabeth Vogt, President

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WCFS

Seattle Tree Fruit Society

For STFS, this summer's first big event was the Mother Earth News Fair, June 1st and 2nd at the Puyallup Fair Grounds. We had a great time at the booth, thanks to Linda Sartnurak who proved that proper prior planning prevents p-poor programming, as they say. We moved about \$350 in maggot barrier sales and expect to do more next year. The only hitch in the operation came when someone neglected to prepare booth signs for the building we were in, but I suspect most fairgoers made it to our booth. We will be making arrangements for next year pretty soon and look forward to at least one of our members giving an oral presentation. Anyone who is interested in working with us next year can contact me, Paul Mallary at 253-833-4085 or email seattletreefruitsociety@hotmail.com.

Most of you know that STFS, working with Seattle Parks established a P-patch orchard at Magnuson Park. The maintenance we perform there gives us a great opportunity to sharpen our skills and to provide training to new members and the public. It's a great way for us to give to the community and strengthen our organization in the process. For example, on June 8th we applied maggot barriers in the orchard and Ingela Wanerstrand demonstrated early summer pruning. Again on August 10 was a late summer pruning demo.

On August 24 Lori Brakken had Bob Norton and a good crew of grafting students over to her place to conduct a bud grafting workshop. A substantial number of newly grafted trees departed with the guests.

Going forward, a number of us will be working on the cider press at the Tilth Harvest Fair on September 7 in Meridian Park in Seattle. We hope to have space for a meeting but that is not confirmed yet.

The following week on September 14 you can see us at the Friends of Piper Orchard Harvest Fest where we will have a literature table. That's at Carkeek Park in north Seattle.

On Wednesday evening, October 9th, we will meet at 6:00pm at our regular place in the Brig building at Magnuson Park where members will be displaying their fruit.

Our November and December meetings will be in the same place, same time on 11/13 and 12/11, both Wednesday evenings.

You can receive event notices if you email paulmallary@gmail.net or seattletreefruitsociety@hotmail.com.

All things considered, this has been a fabulous summer and a rewarding year for us.

Hope to see you soon. Paul Mallary

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Peninsula Fruit Club

PFC watched a PowerPoint presentation on Pear Leaf Blister Mites, Pear Psylla, and Tent Caterpillars in June. There was also a short video about the tachinid fly. In July we watched a couple of bud grafting videos and then did hands on practice and taught the newer members how to bud graft. Later in the month we held a summer pruning workshop at Helen Kirkham's orchard and discussed the reasoning behind summer pruning. August has been a busy month starting with a booth at the Manette Edible Garden Tour de Coop. There were 347 visitors to the garden where we had our booth, and we talked about fruit with a good number of them. At the August meeting we learned about common berry pests and had good group participation in a round table discussion of any- and everything related to growing berries. Two days later we had our first orchard tours of Mike Shannon's and Gareth McMullen's orchards. Our annual picnic and BBQ took place on August 17 at John Meyer's orchard with loads of good food and conversation and a tour of John's orchard. August 21-25 was Kitsap County Fair time. Coming up in September is a joint picnic and tour with the Vashon Island Fruit Club of Jean Williams' and Steve Butler's orchards. The September meeting will be all about mason bees. Probably in October Darren Murphy will give us a presentation about growing in small spaces, and in November we hold elections. We may have a fruit dessert social/recipe exchange at the meeting. Our Fall Fruit Show is scheduled for Saturday, October 12 at the Silverdale Community Center, 9729 Silverdale Way NW, Silverdale from 10 am to 4 pm. <http://wcfs.org/wp-content/uploads/PFC-Fall-Show-Poster-2013.pdf> Please join us if you can. Later in the month we hope to have a club cider squeeze. Jean Williams, President

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Tahoma Chapter

We gathered for the annual member picnic in July at President Terry Tomlinson's home in Puyallup. The event was well attended. In August, the Chapter featured a presentation by Larry Bailey of Clear Food Farm in Orting, WA, a local blueberry orchardist that placed first in the USA for sugar (sweetness) content of his berries. Coming in first out of 240 growers takes a lot of skill. Larry presented his secrets for raising top quality organically grown blueberries. We learned a lot about soil biology, brewing aerobic compost tea, and keeping insects and diseases under control naturally. In short, we learned that it takes a total commitment and persistent effort to be #1. April Prey, Secretary

South Sound Fruit Society

At the end of July and the beginning of August we participated in the Thurston County Fair for the first time and that just kick started a busy month.

August 3, 2013- SSFS learned "How to Read Your Fruit Tree" with Lowell Cordas. We held a special Saturday class in the field to look at when restoring an older tree. We also took a look at the trees, their general health, and productivity. This class was a lot of fun and we had a lovely older orchard with some very unusual (not the current standard varieties) to work with. Ending with a great potluck lunch in the garden and impromptu tour of a new member and neighbor's orchard.

August 25, 2013 – SSFS will be going on a day long **Orchard Tour** in the Steamboat Island area and Lacey. We are picnicking at a lovely Steamboat Island garden and orchard and then moving on to see a container garden, orchard; and shade garden with a container grown Alberta peach growing in the semi-shade and producing peaches. This is a very interesting container orchard system, with an umbrella canopy training especially for those people with a small urban lot or lots of shade.

September 3, 2013 – Is the SSFS Raffle and Elections. We are looking forward to a great potluck and the election of a new president. Always a fun event with great prizes and we are trying a hors oeuvres and ice cream event featuring homemade fruit toppings.

October 1, 2013- SSFS will talk **Jams, Jellies and More** with **Larry Davis.**

November 5, 2013- Jean Williams will talk about **Espalier** and show pictures of the process of building her 60 foot Belgium fence. She will also talk about her new pear trellis.

December 3, 2013- Mike Dolan, owner of Burnt Ridge nursery will talk about **Historic Orchards of the South Sound Area.**

Francisca Ritson, President

Note: It is anticipated that **Ian Stoner will take over as SSFS President.** With an interest in Environmental Science, Ian has a background in botany, ecology, permaculture, and forestry. Ian is a self-employed landscaper, gardener, pruner and bicycle fanatic.

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Snohomish County Fruit Society

The Snohomish County Fruit Society (SCFS) spotted wing drosophila (SWD) research team has been taking weekly collections for their study since the beginning of July. They started out with a heavily infested strawberry crop which has actually improved as the farm implemented better sanitation practices of clean picking the berry plants. Just a few more weeks to go of collection and counting and then there will be an analysis of the trap type and bait longevity data which will hopefully appear in the next BeeLine issue.

We've also changed location and are now meeting at the Snohomish Boys and Girls Club. We look forward to partnering with the club and getting to teach the kids about growing fruit as well as use the space for our meetings. The booth at the Evergreen State Fair this year highlights fruit plants that are grown in Snohomish County, our SWD Research Project, and a new poster that we compiled titled "Edible Fruit Grown in the Puget Sound". We are raffling off our "fruit basket" again this year too – a basket full of fruit plants - to get someone started growing fruit in their own backyard. Last but not least, as we head into the fall we have a great line-up of educational opportunities for members and visitors.

Bob "Kiwibob" Glanzman will join us Sept 12 to speak on **FIGS**

Carol Bello of Granite Falls will impart her **MELON GROWING SECRETS** to us on Oct 10.

Randy Lee will enlighten us about **FRUIT STORAGE** come Nov 14 and we'll also hold a **CIDER MAKING** workshop sometime that month, date and time TBD.

Finally, we'll return to **BLUEBERRIES** on Dec 12 and have a local farm tell us about their experiences growing blueberries in Snohomish County.

Bekie Jackson, President

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Olympic Orchard Society

July 27 was Annual barbecue potluck and orchard/garden tour at home of Board Director Jim House and Treasurer Carol House. August program was on Bees, Mark Urnes, hobbyist beekeeper and past president of North Olympic Peninsula Beekeepers Assn. Sept. 10, 7pm, we will meet at Clallam Court House for the topic: Cider, Jim Mraz and Mead, Erik Simpson. In October we will prepare for our Fall Fruit Show, Nov. 9, Trinity United Methodist Church, Sequim. Joseph Postman, USDA Pear Repository, Corvallis, will be our noted speaker.

Marilyn Couture, Secretary

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WCFS OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

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Links

Here is a list of sites on the web that may be of interest to you.

Related Organizations

Backyard Fruit Growers

www.sas.upenn.edu/~dailey/byfg.html

California Rare Fruit Growers

www.crfg.org

East of England Apples and Orchards Project

www.applesandorchards.org.uk

Indiana Nut Growers Association

www.nutgrowers.org

Midwest Fruit Explorers

www.midfex.org

North American Fruit Explorers

www.nafex.org

Northern Nut Growers Association

www.northernnutgrowers.org

Oregon Sustainable Agriculture Land Trust

www.osalt.org

Western Cascade Fruit Society

www.wcfs.org

Western Washington Fruit Research Foundation

www.wwfrf.org

Home Orchard Society

www.homeorchardsociety.org/

Seattle Tree Fruit Society

www.seattletreefruitsociety.com/

Seattle Tree Fruit Society—Apple ID program

www.seattletreefruitsociety.com/appleid.php

Fruit Research

National Clonal Germplasm Repository

www.ars-grin.gov/cor

Tree Fruit Research and Extension Center, Washington State.

www.tfrec.wsu.edu

Northwest Berry and Grape Infonet.

berrygrape.oregonstate.edu

Pedigree: A Genetic Resource Inventory System

www.pgris.com

Oregon Department of Agriculture

www.oda.state.or.us

Government Sites

US Dept. of Agriculture

www.usda.gov

USDA Agricultural Research Service

www.ars.usda.gov

Helpful Sites

Orange Pippin

www.orangepippin.com

Kiyokawa Family Orchards

www.mthoodfruit.com

Red Pig Tools

www.redpigtools.com

Friends of Trees

www.friendsoftrees.org

Cornell Gardening Resources

www.gardening.cornell.edu

http://www.fruit.cornell.edu/tree_fruit/GPGeneral.html

The National Arbor Day Foundation

www.arborday.org

UBC Botanical Garden

www.ubcbotanicalgarden.org

The Reckless Gardener

www.recklessgardener.co.uk

Farm & Garden

www.farm-garden.com

SeeMeGarden.com

www.seemegarden.com

GardenGuides.com

www.gardenguides.com

VitiSearch: Helpful Resources about Grapes

www.vitisearch.com

Avant-Gardening: Creative Organic Gardening

www.avant-gardening.com

The Hardy Plant Society of Oregon

www.hardyplantsociety.org

Ask the Berry Man

www.asktheberryman.com

BackyardGardener.com

www.backyardgardener.com

Tom Brown's website

www.applesearch.org

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