

Western Cascade Tree  
Fruit Association  
11301 Exeter N.E.  
Seattle, Wash. 98125

newsletter of the Western Cascade Tree Fruit Association

## WCTFA NEWS

SPRING, 1981

### COMING EVENTS

#### Spring Meeting

March 21, 1981  
9:30-5:00

Northwest Washington Research Station  
1468 Memorial Highway  
Mt. Vernon, Wash.

Brown bag lunch

Featured Speaker: Dr. Robert L. Stebbins, Oregon State University. Dr. Stebbins has written extensively about growing fruit on this side of the Cascades, covering such topics as rootstocks, selection of varieties, extremely high density plantings, variety selection, and fruit marketing.

Also, a grafting and pruning workshop is scheduled.

#### Annual Election

Three members of the Board of Directors will be nominated and elected at the Spring meeting.

### INSIDE NEWS

Program of Spring Meeting

Willamette Valley Chapter Being Formed

Where to Pick Up the Rootstock You Ordered

Spring Educational Meeting  
Program

Place: Northwest Washington Research Station  
1468 Memorial Highway, Mt. Vernon

9:30-10:30 - Growing and Marketing Tree Fruits

Panel: Moderator, Robert Sestrap, Wax Orchards  
Tom Flick, Farm Markets - availability of  
orchard supplies  
Robert Fox, Bulk Commodity Exchange -  
marketing fruit  
Curtis Moulton, King County Extension - small  
farms  
Gary Moulton, Mt. Vernon Experiment Station  
orchard chemicals  
Tom Thorton, Grower - organic growing

10:30-11:00 - Question and answer session

11:00-12:00 - Dr. Robert L. Stebbins, Oregon State Univ.

"Fruit Growing From A to Z on the Western  
Side of the Cascades"

12:30-2:30 - Grafting and Pruning Workshop

Demonstration and practice sessions while  
you eat your sack lunch

2:30-3:00 - Business Meeting, Election of Board of  
Directors

3:00-4:00 - Robert Sestrap, Wax Orchards

"Orchard Economics: Part II"

For those of you unable to attend the next WCTFA meeting,  
the next Newsletter will feature a summary of Dr. Stebbins'  
talk as well as other information discussed at this  
Spring meeting.

Willamette Valley Chapter Being Formed

Steps were taken Saturday, Feb. 7 to form a  
Willamette Valley chapter of the WCTFA at an Apple  
Producers Meeting organized by Ken Willmarth of the  
Small Family Farm Assistance Program of the OSU  
Extension. The meeting followed a full day of pruning  
demonstrations and most instructive grafting demonstra-  
tion by Jack Muldoon and Steve Simmons of Pacific  
Propagators, Sheridan, Oregon. It would appear that  
the WCTFA could serve growers here by providing infor-  
mation about such things as the advantages of high  
density plantings on controlled rootstocks and of  
superior apple varieties for the Pacific slope, such as  
Jonagold, Spartan, Mutsu, Melrose, and the like. Anyone  
in the valley desiring more information may call Gary  
Rebholz, Barnesdale Farm, Rt. 2, Box 226, Dayton, Oregon  
97114 (864-2842).

Rebholz

Picking Up Rootstock

If you have ordered rootstock from WCTFA, you can pick  
it up at the Spring Meeting from Tom Perkins.

Membership Dues

If you haven't paid your dues for 1981, please use the  
following membership coupon.

Membership Coupon

1981

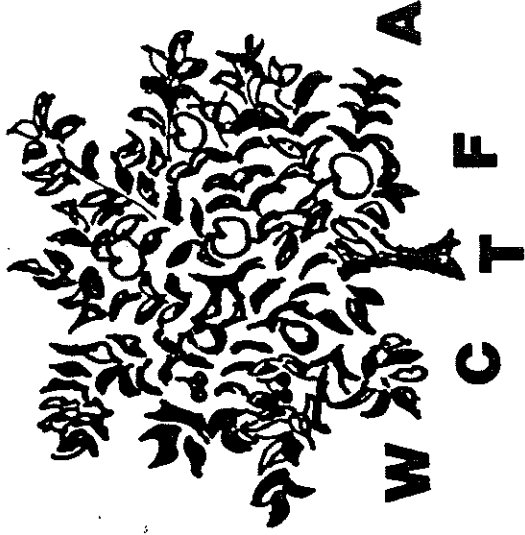
Dues: \$10 per year

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Dr. Robert Thomas  
11301 Exeter N.E.  
Seattle, Wash. 98125



## NEWS

SUMMER 1981

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### Spring Meeting Notes

March 21, 1981

With weather cooperating, the spring meeting at Mount Vernon station on March 21st was attended by a packed house of enthusiastic fruit growers.

The program was adjusted to give Dr. Stebbins from Oregon State University more scope to develop his subject which ran the gamut of fruit production problems and rewards, including the economic aspects of fruit growing.

His ability to relate orchard performance to economic returns was reinvigorating. The growers present enjoyed his slides which demonstrated various situations encountered in actual orchard practice from soils to planting densities to cultural and pruning practices.

The panel on growing and marketing explored several new approaches and systems for growing and marketing. In addition to the panel several people came forward with special knowledge, and a lively question and answer period developed some interesting new ideas.

Election of directors followed lunch break; Lance Douglas, Tom Thornton, Woody Deryckx, and John Parker were nominated. The first three named were elected.

The pruning and grafting demonstrations degenerated to "lectures only". Because of the unseasonably warm winter weather, all pruning had been completed at the station. Apologies to the people who were disappointed.

Many varieties and their different growth habits were demonstrated. There are excellent bulletins available from the Extension service on the subject of pruning and grafting.

The meeting dispersed, having lost all interest in Orchard Economics, Part II, the last item on the agenda.

Board Meeting

W. L. LYON ✓ ~~W. L. Lyon~~  
 19717 ~ 80th Avenue  
 April 18, 1981

At the Board Meeting at Tom Perkins Orchard on April 18, 1981, Walt Lyon of Eothell (485-5574) was elected president of our association. Gerald Pate of Port Townsend (385-0224) is vice-president, and Jim Arstis from Everett (355-5465) was designated secretary-treasurer.

Tentative dates for the fall field day were chosen. A tour area in South Puget Sound was preferred and designated.

Fall Orchard Tour

Sept. 12, 1981

Two tree nurseries and two orchards in the Puyallup-Summer area will be visited.

The tour begins at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 12th at the Cleverko Nursery, 1½ miles south of Sumner on the Sumner-Urtling Road, also known as Valley Ave.

Rootstock propagation and acres of custom-budded trees are the points of interest here. Ask about deer control.

At 11:00 a.m. we leave for the Buckley Nursery, about two miles east at 16819 Van Oglestora Road East (turn at small grocery). A much more varied propagation operation is conducted at the nursery for a different market.

After Buckley, we will assemble at the Western Washington Research Station on Pioneer Ave., west of Puyallup for a brown bag lunch. Coffee, juice and fruit will be provided.

After lunch, announcements and a short discussion period, at 1:30 we will proceed ¼ mile east to Curwin Orchard, where several varieties on various rootstocks are commercially grown in heavy clay soil with a special planting system.

The tour will end at the C. D. Schwartze Orchard on Tacoma Road. Dr. Schwartze was responsible for many of our successful varieties of fruits and berries, before retiring from years on the staff of the Research Station as Horticulturist. He has continued experimenting at his home, where a multitude of fruits can be observed and compared.

Research Support Needed

A proposal for the formation of a fund-raising group to bolster the research capability of the Mount Vernon station is being examined by your board of directors.

In addition to the selection of varieties suitable for our climate zone, work needs to go forward on fungus disease resistant varieties of all the tree fruits which will grow here.

The need for one more technical position is apparent, and at a cost of \$12,000 yearly the program carried on by Dr. Norton since 1964 could be expanded.

Sixty-five percent of the state population lives in western Washington and could well support a lot of small fruit growers. Easing our dependency on long distance hauling would be a side benefit.

This fund raising could be supported by all horticultural interests in Western Washington with benefits accruing to all.

If it saves you the cost of buying and spraying one Red Delicious tree which is still sold by most garden stores, would it be worth \$10, \$15, or \$25 to you?

Please talk it up at your meetings, and let us know. Something could be in place by next spring.

The above notes were prepared by Robert Sestrap. He also rec'd all the arrangements for the Fall Orchard Tour and deserves a word of thanks from all members.

#### All About Fruit Show

A second All About Fruit show will be held October 16-17-18, 1981 in the Northwest Rooms at the Seattle Center. The hours will be: Fri. 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.; Sat. 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Sun. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. A small admission will be charged - \$2.00 for adults; \$1.00 for children and seniors. All members are urged to help publicize the show. Application blanks for membership in our association will be distributed, which should result in more new members.

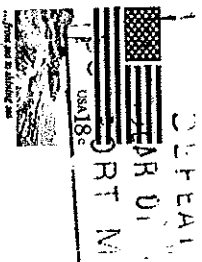
#### Course in Grafting

For those interested, Edmonds Community College offers a course in grafting the first part of the winter quarter. I think it usually starts the first week in Jan. and runs for 5 weeks. It is an evening class, one evening a week from about 6:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. The Grafters Handbook is used as a text, and I think the cost last year was \$22.00 for the course. Further particulars can be had by enquiring at the college.

Mr Jim Anstis  
Western Cascade Tree  
Fruit Association  
420 92nd St.  
Everett, Wash. 98204

355-5465

*Letter 8-13-81  
1 question  
answered*



Edward Lewis

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Bellevue, Wash. 98004