



WESTERN CASCADE TREE FRUIT ASSOCIATION
2015 N Avenue
Anacortes, WA 98221

WCTFA NEWSLETTER - FALL 1983

COMING EVENTS

- 29 September Fruit I.D. workshop by John Parker, Port Ludlow, WA
29 September Organizational meeting of volunteers for Piper's Homestead Orchard.
8 October WCTFA Fall Orchard Tour
5, 6 Nov. 1983 All About Fruit Show, Western Washington Fairgrounds, Puyallup, WA

Apple I. D. Workshop

John D. Parker will conduct an apple identification workshop at his home on 29 September 1983. The workshop will last about 5 hours and begins at 9:30 a.m. Bring a sack lunch--he and Freida will provide coffee and probably dessert.

Knowledgeable participants will be asked to assist at the 1983 All About Fruit Show, November 5 and 6. But if you have an interest in apple I. D. don't let that deter you.

John's address is 60 Tala Shores Drive, Port Ludlow, WA 98365. Call from Port Ludlow for directions--437-2313. For further information, call John or Rick Reisinger or Nancy Jo Cushman at the Snohomish County Cooperative Extension Service Office. The toll free number is 1-800-562-4367 and ask the switchboard operator for Cooperative Extension. For carpooling call Rick, Nancy or Ed Lewis (454-3615).

Volunteers needed

Piper's Homestead Orchard was begun approximately 1880 in northwest Seattle near what is now Carkeek Park. It became mature about 1910. Today it has many old cultivars of apple, pear, plum, cherry and 1 nut tree. The orchard was abandoned about 30 years ago and is today overrun by seedlings of fruit, alder, briars and all of the other species by which nature reclaims land.

Ms. Daphne Lewis (783-2252) is spearheading an effort to restore this historic orchard. She will conduct a planning workshop at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, 29 September 1983. Place: The Broadview Community Church, North 125th Street, at Greenwood Avenue North in north west Seattle. Call Daphne for details.

WCTFA FALL ORCHARD TOUR

With pleasure and anticipation, we announce the WCTFA 1983 Fall Orchard Tour! On October 8, 9AM to 4:30PM, we'll visit three orchards that we guarantee will provide both startling contrast and fine opportunities to increase your understanding and appreciation of fruit growing in the maritime northwest.

THE SCHEDULE

- 9:00AM Meet in Blythe Park in Bothell, organize carpooling, distribute maps.
Note: Blythe Park is a delightful park next to the Sammamish River with play equipment for children, lawn, acres of open space for comfortable wandering. The picnic shelter is reserved for us. For family members who would like to sit out the first orchard, Blythe Park provides good diversion.
- 9:30 Travel to Duvall
10:00 to 12:00 Smith Orchard
Mini-discussion: Renovation Pruning
Rick Reisinger, Snohomish County Extension Agent
- 12:00 to 12:30 Return to Blythe Park
12:30 to 1:30 Lunch (bring your own), WCTFA meeting and information on the All About Fruit Show, fruit tasting.
Note: How about sharing the flavors of the in-season fruit varieties you're growing? We'll provide paper plates and labels.
- *Parking is limited at the other orchards so we'll divide ourselves in half for the remainder of the afternoon.
- 1:30 to 2:45 Half the cars will go first to the Canyon Park Orchard (Bothell near Woodinville)
Mini-discussion: Fruit Thinning
John Parker, WCTFA board member
- The other half will go first to the Lyon Orchard (Bothell near Kenmore)
Mini-discussion: Topworking Apple Trees
Walt Lyon, Horticulturist
- 2:45 to 4:30 Exchange locations (repeat of Canyon Park and Lyon orchards and mini-discussions)

Now, before we describe the orchards, for your comfort, please

1. Wear sturdy shoes and long slacks.
2. Bring your picnic.
3. (We'll have wonderful, sunny, warm Indian Summer weather, but)
Bring rain gear.

AND REMEMBER TO BRING FRUIT FOR TASTING!!

THE ORCHARDS

The Albert Smith Orchard (in the hills northeast of Duvall)-

We think it'll be some time before you'll see another orchard like this one--rough to the eye, requiring a careful step, dozen after dozen of old and new apple, pear and stone fruit varieties stealing space in sheep pasture. Beginning about 1978, Mr. Smith began planting this mostly apple orchard, choosing varieties like Chenango Strawberry, various russets, Mother, Pink Pearl and Pitmaston Pineapple--literally dozens of uncommon varieties as well as newer types, scab resistant varieties, etc. The orchard is bearing, and the trees haven't been pruned for perhaps two years, which means you'll see natural growth habits. Mr. Smith will tell us about his experiences developing the orchard and comment on the varieties. Rick Reisinger will talk about pruning mature and damaged trees. (Remember, this is rough pasture so wear sturdy shoes and long pants!)

The Canyon Park Orchard (Bothell near Woodinville)-

Canyon Park Orchard is a newly developed commercial orchard located on an ideal sloping site. Owner Tom Berry has planted varieties like Gala (bearing this year), Akane, Gravenstein, Jonagold, Jonamac and Paulared. The orchard has been planted in blocks over several years, so you'll see trees of various ages. Mr. Berry will comment on the economic aspects of starting a commercial apple growing enterprise on the west side, why he selected the varieties he's growing and his experiences to date. John Parker will give the fruit thinning talk that he gave for the North Olympic Fruit Club.

The Walt Lyon Orchard (Bothell near Kenmore)-

Mr. Lyon has both a mature apple and pear orchard, and a developing orchard of apple varieties on M 27 roots. Some of you have visited this orchard and will agree that the display of fruits, grafting and training techniques offered by this planting are impressive! Mr. Lyon also grows some stone fruits, persimmon, a splendid American chestnut, berries, and at least 75 varieties of wine and table grapes! He'll tell about the tree fruit varieties he's growing, show us the grapes and present a mini-discussion on topworking apple trees.

DRIVING DIRECTIONS TO BLYTHE PARK BOTHELL, WASHINGTON

There are a variety of ways to reach Bothell which lies east and just a bit to the north of Seattle. If you are unfamiliar with the Seattle area, find your way to Interstate 405.

from I-405, traveling south from I-5/Lynnwood, take
Exit 23 B
522 West
Bothell

from I-405, traveling north from Renton or Bellevue/
Highway 520, take
Exit 23
522 West
Bothell/Seattle

Follow the curving road toward Bothell. Stay in the right lane. The distance is not great, so travel at a moderate speed. Just after passing two small offices on the right (Mikos Realty and State Farm), leave the main road and curve to the right up the hill into Bothell. Turn left at the first intersection, Beardsley Blvd. Beardsley immediately becomes Main Street. Travel a short bit to 102 Ave. N.E. and make a left turn onto 102nd. Cross the bridge and make a right turn down the dead end road marked Blythe Park.

For those of you who come into Bothell from Seattle via Lake City, Lake Forest Park or Kenmore, stay in the middle lanes as you approach the main (and confusing) Bothell intersection. Come straight ahead up the hill. You'll be on Main Street. After two blocks, turn right onto 102 Ave. N.E. Cross the bridge and make a right turn down the dead end road marked Blythe Park.

****Can't wait to see you at Blythe Park,
October 8, 1983 at 9:00 AM!****

Helen Zuelow
Tour Chairperson
827-2939

1983 All About Fruit Show

President, Ed Lewis in his message elsewhere in this newsletter discusses several aspects of this show. One practical thing each of you can do is to assist in distributing the printed 3 x 8 cards describing the show about your neighborhood. Ask garden centers and the smaller neighborhood nurseries if you can leave a small supply where shoppers and visitors can pick them up. Talk up the fruit show at your garden club, weekly coffee klatch, service club meetings, etc. There are many bulletin boards in business places where this kind of notice can be posted for free. Place a few near the cash register or check out stand where you work. Encourage everyone you know to attend. Too many people here in the Puget Sound region don't know the wide variety of fruit which can be grown here by the home gardener, even small city lots.

Spray guides for Home Orchardists

Spray guides for insect and disease control on all varieties of fruits and nuts are available from the Cooperative Extension Service. These guides cost 25¢ each and are a best buy. Information sheets on individual insects and diseases of fruit and to horticulture in general are also available at 25¢ each. The guides list insects and diseases, materials to use and the time of application. The information sheets discuss what's known about the life cycle of the pest, times of appearance, what it looks like and cultural methods to use besides pesticides to combat the pest.

Some spraying is recommended now to coincide with our heavy fall rains on nearly all fruit bearing plants. The main concerns are Coryneum blight of stone fruit and anthracnose of apple.

According to "Edible Nuts of the World," by Edwin A. Menninger, D. Sc., the seeds of Araucaria araucana, known as the Monkey Puzzle tree or the Chilean Pine, are edible. Quoting from the book, "The seeds are eaten by the Indians, either fresh, boiled or roasted and from them is distilled a spirituous liquor . . . The seeds are sold as an article of food in the streets of Rio de Janeiro." I have eaten them raw, a bit starchy but not bad. Since crows and other birds like them also inspect frequently under mature trees.

NOTES:

If you are thinking of tapping the U-pick market for fruit grown on this side of the Cascades, the following account by Tom and Susan Berry is probably representative of the costs and labor you will be looking at. Theirs is one of the 3 orchards WCTFA shall visit Saturday, 8 October 1983.

Tom Berry's Orchard

Sun. the 17th

Greetings, Folks:

Here is some information. I hope that it is what you are looking for.

Helen Zeulow and Nancy Cushman called us yesterday and came over to look things over. We talked about what was expected during the tour and they looked over the trees. We talked about parking and so forth and Helen suggested that we might include some figures as to how much it costs to get into this business from our standpoint. So I'll include some of that information along with our apple varieties that we have on hand now.

Starting at the bottom end of the orchard we have four rows of Gravenstein on M-9. Included in that are six Grav's on M-26 that I'm going to watch for differences in vigor. The pollen source is Transparent and Summerred, both on 26's.

Next is a row of Mutsu on 9's. By the way, all of our rootstocks are M-9's, 26's, or M-7A's.

Next we have five rows of Spartan on 26's. Then one more row of Mutsu again on 9's. Then three rows of Jonamac on 26's interplanted with Macoun on 26. Followed by Paulared, seven rows, with King on 26 for pollen. The next two rows are nearly empty with a few Paulared and one Rome on 26. Then two rows of Jonagold on 9's. Next a nursery row with rootstocks, both M-9's and M-26's. These are layers and stools made in my own inexperienced way. After that are Gala (Stark Bros. Ptd.) on 26-7 rows, with Golden del. on seedling roots. (Should be fun to try to control these). Then 8 half-rows of Macoun on 26 with Akane (26) for pollen. Followed by 11 rows of Jonagold on 9's with Gala for pollen. There are M-9 rootstocks interplanted with the Jonagold, in place, which will be budded this summer (Aug.) to Jonagold. We skip some rows and then come to some more Spartan on 26 at the top of the hill. The Empty rows and spaces will be pretty much filled next spring with nursery trees that we have down in front of the house. There are 110 Spartan (26) and 30 Melrose on M-7A from Hilltop Orchards that came late, about mid May. They had a great sale!

We have various varieties interplanted here and there which include Rome, Chehalis, a red Del. of unknown source, two Red Chief, Spigold, Northern Spy, Red Wealthy, Twenty Ounce, Orenco, Tohuko 4, Empire, Ashmead, Kevnel, Burgundy, Red Typeman, Baldwin--that's 30 varieties by my count. We have Italian prunes, Bing cherries and Montmoveny. Gravenstein came from Perkin's. They listed Grav. and Grav. "Red". I did not buy "Red" gravenstein.

This orchard project was officially begun in the spring of 1980. We came up with the idea of doing something with our land to help generate some income to supplement our oil heating business which was waning under the pressure of more efficient fuel use. This was something that we had to accept.

We decided to visit the W. S. U. research facility at Mount Vernon. We arrived unannounced only wishing to acquire some bulletins or written matter on western WA orchardry. They were more than helpful and in fact ushered us in to see Dr. Norton who was kind enough to take time out to talk to us. He was very encouraging and gave us a lot of help and especially Susan some encouragement. His attitude was very positive. So that was what started it.

We have something better than five acres of land. Except for the house it was all in forest. It contained for the most part D-fir, Cedar, Maple, and Alder trees along with the usual ground growth foliage. It had to be cleared along with the 50 to 60 old growth stumps left from 1900-1910 clear logging.

The cost of this land clearing was close to 11,000 dollars. It left the land fairly level but full of small sticks of limbs and roots, plus lots of rocks. These we had to pick and burn and toss by hand with the help of an old Ferguson tractor which I still use. This was done during the summer of 1980 and in the late summer we were ready to seed the land to clover and rye grass. It rained nicely and it grew beautifully. By the way, the saw logs that we sold to a local mill paid for the clearing.

For the equipment that we have purchased, a lot of it that we built with materials bought and scrounged, the trees, the seed, chemicals, wire, irrigation, fuel, oil, supplies in general, it has cost us in excess of 4500 dollars per year to operate. We haven't sold one apple yet. I hope that we do. That's a heck of a hobby for a guy who has tar paper on the back of his house.

I hope that this information is what you needed. Let me know if you need more. I've lots of it. Hope to see you before too long.

Sincerely yours,

Tom and Susan Berry, 483-8654



Membership Application
WESTERN CASCADE TREE FRUIT ASSOCIATION

Purpose:

Shall be to bring together persons interested in growing fruit and nuts west of the Cascade Mountains for the purpose of disseminating information.

Shall be to aid financially to tree fruit research in the Northwestern Washington Research and Extension Unit, Mount Vernon, Washington.

Membership activities:

Spring - one day seminar, Fall - orchard or facilities tour, and fruit show.
Three issues of Newsletter - spring, summer and fall.

Name _____ Phone _____

City & State _____ Zip _____

Dues: \$10.00, annually at or before spring meeting. New ___ Renewal ___

Mail to: Nancy Cushman, 9211-131st NE, Lake Stevens, WA 98258

Your fruit speciality or interest _____