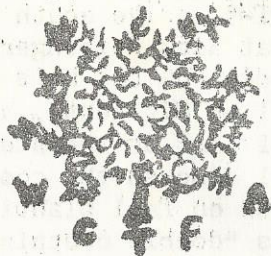


WCTFA NEWSLETTER



SUMMER 1984

*** ATTENTION ***

ANNUAL WCTFA TOUR -- AUGUST 18, 1984

Meet: Les Merritt's orchard . . . 9:30 AM (898 Bayview-Edison Road, Mt. Vernon)

DRIVING INSTRUCTIONS: Take I-5 to the Burlington area, North of Mt. Vernon.

Exit 231, (Chuckanut Drive -- Bow-Edison) 0.0 miles. If you have traveled from the south turn right off freeway. On the west side of the freeway, take the left turn on to Wilson Road which is marked by a Bayview State Park directional sign. Wilson Road goes due West. There will be 3 stop signs at 2.0, 5.2, 6.8 miles from the freeway. At the last stop sign make a right turn north again following the Bayview State Park sign. The bay and tide flat will be on your left and the park on your right. Continue north. The orchard is at 9.2 miles from the freeway. Turn left down the gravel drive.

BRING YOUR LUNCH. (Driving instructions to other orchards on the tour will be distributed at Merritt's orchard.)

This year we're touring early in the apple season so we can get a good look at varieties like Summerred, Summertreat and Gravenstein. As a bonus, our route takes us through some of the loveliest countryside in Washington State.

We'll start in Skagit County at Les Merritt's Gravenstein orchard. Les is a commercial orchardist farming 26 acres. He grows 3 strains of Gravenstein and has promised to refrigerate some of each so we can see and taste the differences between them. His site has such a mild climate that the Gravensteins are maturing now, several weeks before those in most other orchards. He also grows Jonagold, Akane, Mutsu, Lodi and others. Les is a fan of the Hawaii variety, a somewhat controversial apple. His Hawaii trees have some unusual qualities. We'll take a good look at them.

We'll eat our lunches at Les', bring you up-to-date on WCTFA news, then head east through Sedro Woolley to Perkins Variety Apples. Tom Perkins grows 13 apple varieties commercially, including Jonagold and Melrose, and an additional 170 or so varieties for fun. He farms 20 acres. Tom's had problems with burr knot in his orchard and began using GaleX last year to treat it. He's happy with the results. We'll get details as we walk through the orchard. We'll also see the cold storage building he added to his operation a year or two ago.

Leaving Tom's, we'll head back to I-5, drive south to the Skagit-Snohomish line north of Stanwood and take a look at Rick Reisinger's new planting. Rick claims "there's not much to see" at his orchard, but he's planted 2½ acres to Jonagold, Gravenstein and other varieties all on M26 roots, and could write a book about his experiences to date. Rick will tell us the steps he went through to evaluate his site, select varieties and will discuss the costs of setting up a new orchard. I know we'll get to hear his opinion on fall planting! He's even met and hopefully conquered European Canker. Rick is "double cropping" his orchard temporarily, something not too often tried in this area. He's got two rows of strawberries between each row of trees. And, last but not least, he has two types of mist blower sprayers to show us which he can recommend to orchardists growing on one to five acres.

All in all, the 1984 WCTFA ORCHARD TOUR will fill the day full. See you at 9:30 AM on AUGUST 18th!

--Helen Zuelow, Tour Chairperson
827-2939

OPEN HOUSE AT MT. VERNON

AUGUST 30th, 1984

AGENDA

10:00 - Noon	Open House - Visit displays, informal discussions with research and Extension personnel.
1:30 - 3:00	Odd-ball Fruit & Nuts - George Pinyuh Landscaping with Fruit - Panel Discussion with Gary Moulton, Bob Norton, and Jeanette Mullen Tree Fruit Insect Situation - Art Antonelli, Western Washington Research Station
3:00 - 5:00	Tour of Tree and Berry Plantings, Performance of Day-Neutral Strawberries, Everbearing Raspberries, Plum, Peach, Early Apple, Pear Varieties

The Research station is located on Route 536 (Memorial Highway) just 3 miles west of Mt. Vernon. Take the Kincaid Exit from the freeway and follow the signs for the Anacortes ferry.

The October 11th tour for late apples will feature Dr. Judith Freeman, WSDA, on the apple maggot problem, and Tom Perkins on the fundamentals of tree training.

OPEN HOUSE REPORT by Jackie King, NW Wash. Research Station

A field day held July 12 at the Northwest Washington Research Unit, featuring discussions of fruit and berry culture, tours of the research plantings, and a display of fruit and berry varieties, was attended by over 200 people. Considerable interest was aroused by trees of genetic dwarf peaches, nectarines, and cherries grown in containers. Garden Bing and Starkrimson TM cherries produce good sized, high quality fruit, and can be grown in the field as well as in containers. Among the standard cherry cultivars, Early Burlat, Moreau, Van, Hardy Giant, and Angela all provide good quality fruit, bear reliably, and are less subject to fruit dropping than Bing or Rainier. Sebina Nkojo, graduate student of Lesotho, has been investigating the problem of fruit drop on cherries. Her research has demonstrated that lack of pollination is not the cause; more work is needed on this topic.

PEST INVENTORY by Gary Moulton, NW Wash. Research Station

With this wet spring, apple and pear scab devastated unsprayed and in many cases sprayed (at the wrong time) trees. At NWRS the leaf wetness meter recorded 5 infection periods from budswell, most in the bloom period. We sprayed only the 1st and second periods which reduced scab significantly and gave good control in most sites. The early sprays (pre pink and bloom sprays) are very important because they reduce inoculum and later infection periods cause less problems if any. Aphids have and will continue to be a problem this year if not kept in check. Predators were doing a sufficient job for us early in the season, but populations have exploded in many areas and should be watched closely for spraying.

MANHART "HITS THE NAIL ON THE HEAD" by Bob Norton

Warren Manhart, Amateur Grower and Nursery Representative from Lake Oswego, OR, really "hit the nail on the head" in a "letter to the editor" of the Goodfruit Grower Magazine (Vol. 35, No. 14), P.O. Box 9219, Yakima, WA 98909. The letter titled "Better Quality Apples Come From Better Varieties" talks about the efforts of the Home Orchard Society, the Western Cascade Tree Fruit Association and the WSU Research Station at Mt. Vernon to promote new and better quality varieties like Jonagold, Criterion, Gala, Empire, Melrose, Spartan, Mutzu, and even some of the old timers like Cox Orange, Spitzenberg, Yellow Newtown, and Northern Spy. The present popularity of Granny Smith because of good marketing and shelf life may be rather short lived, according to Manhart, when these other varieties become better known. The All About Fruit Show is doing a tremendous job in alerting the public here in the Northwest. Great work, Warren!

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT (Helen Zuelow)

My first official act as your new president shall be to express admiration and appreciation for Ed Lewis, recent past president to WCTFA. His two-year commitment to the presidency and to the membership of our organization is gratefully acknowledged. Ed has a contagious enthusiasm for fruit growing and a fine, continuing supply of ideas for the development of a strong responsive association. We will continue to rely on him for inspiration and involvement.

Founded in 1980, WCTFA is now completing its birthing years. We are heading into a time of refinement and expansion. Over the next year your board of directors will be analyzing how membership spreads out geographically. Delighted with the outstanding success of our only chapter, the North Olympic Fruit Club, we will decide if and how WCTFA might become a chapter-oriented association. We will form committees which will keep us in better touch with the membership, enabling us to respond to your interests. We'll decide if we want to formally adopt a historic orchard, holding ourselves responsible for its renovation. And we'll develop our newsletter into a quarterly reflecting the formidable expertise of our membership. I look forward to the coming year, to meeting many of you, to working with the board. I invite you to participate in WCTFA during this year of action and growth.

ELECTIONS HELD

New officers were elected at the summer board meeting and are as follows:
Helen Zuelow - President, Seattle area instructor in tree fruit growing
Dr. Robert Norton - Vice president, Director of the NWWRC at Mt. Vernon
Nancy Cushman - Secretary, Master Gardener Coordinator, amateur fruit grower
Tom Berry - Treasurer, Bothell area commercial fruit grower
Dave Battey, fruit grower from Snoqualmie, was appointed to fill out the board term of Joe Dupre who resigned.

WCTFA GOALS DEFINED

The following resolution was submitted by Bob Sestrap at the spring meeting. It was favorably acted on by the Board of Directors at their last meeting with a few minor changes.

PREAMBLE

Tree fruit culture in our state began with the first fruit trees planted at a Hudson Bay trading post near the mouth of the Columbia River. As the region was settled, more trees were planted, and markets were supplied by growers sending their products in barrels, via horseteams, schooners and mosquito fleet boats up and down the coast, even as far as the Yukon. Some of these early trees can still be found in almost every Western Washington community.

With our land grant university, Washington State University, established in the hot and dry eastern part of the state, research there does not accurately respond to our needs. Consequently much misinformation has been distributed in our region with disappointing results.

The nucleus of our organization was conceived at a field day at Wax Orchards in March, 1979, when many people indicated that an organization to address problems peculiar to our area climate and geography was needed and would be supported.

Western Cascades Tree Fruit Association was born at that field day, and from then on it has been nurtured by many individuals and groups - both professional and lay people. The rest of the story is recent history; a series of farm and station tours, the famous All About Fruit Shows, and a growing awareness of what is possible in Western Washington. Our reward is that fewer people are selecting the unsuitable Jonathan, Winesap, Rome and Red Delicious varieties for planting in Western Washington.

It is now time that our goals be targeted and policies be defined so that as our organization grows, it does not waste time and effort needlessly.

ACTION

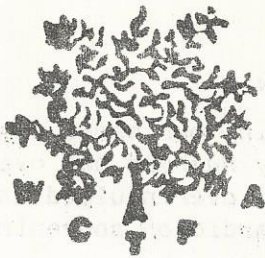
Therefore be it resolved that we adopt goals and policies as guidelines for our Board of Directors:

1. That our association obtain speakers and technical people who are conversant with problems and techniques encountered in our climate zone or one that is similar.
2. That future fruit shows be regionally focused, cooperating across state lines, observing only geographic and climatic boundaries.
3. That efforts should be made to designate a portion of All About Fruit Show receipts go to research for our region.
4. That efforts to locate and preserve old varieties be continued and publicised as a way to widen our knowledge and membership, to let consumers know what is happening in Western Washington, and to encourage them to support our efforts.
5. That our Spring and Fall tours be continued as in the past, with more efforts to publicize activities of local groups like the Olympic group, and to encourage other areas to become active in organizing similar subgroups to increase interest in different localities.

DUES NEED TO BE PAID

Dues should have been paid at the annual spring meeting. But it's not too late! Fill out the form on the next page and mail it to the treasurer, Tom Berry. NOFC dues should be sent to Ben LaLonde.

It was decided at the Board meeting to make the annual dues payable on January 1st of each year. This should alleviate the long lines at the treasurer's table during the spring meeting.



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 purposes of disseminating information.

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

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

NAME _____ Phone _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ ZIP _____

DUES: \$10.00 annually. NEW _____ RENEWAL _____

_____ Interest in forming local chapter _____
(area)

Your fruit speciality or interest _____

_____ Willing to help out with _____
(List committee or work)

Mail to: Tom Berry, 23305 39th Ave. N.E., Bothell, WA 98011

TWO OPPORTUNITIES FOR CLASSROOM FRUIT GROWING . . .

Edmonds Community College Horticulture Department offers its two-credit course on "Fruit and Nut Growing" beginning September 25, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:20 - 12:10, through December 6. Developed for professional horticulturists who wish to expand their knowledge of local fruit growing, this class is also open to the public and may be audited. There will be lots of fruit-tastings, opportunities for field trips, and an introduction to the literature on fruit growing. Edmonds Community College is two blocks west of Highway 99 in Lynnwood. (Edmonds Community College, 20000 68th Ave. West, Lynnwood, WA 98036, 771-1500)

The University of Washington Center for Urban Horticulture will have a three-session course on "Beginning with Apples" including a two hour lecture with slides, a field trip, and an apple tasting. Oct. 17, 20 and 24. Call 545-8033 for registration information.

Both of these courses will be taught by Helen Zuelow.

BOOK REVIEW by Helen Zuelow

My family and I recently returned from a trip to Britain, our backs sagging forward with the weight of books in our rucksacks and bags. My husband had overindulged in books on old planes, old cars and old sailing ships. I overindulged in horticultural volumes (and brass door knockers). We all overdid on souvenir booklets. People were staring at us.

At Wisley Gardens, I purchased a paperbound book entitled The Fruit Garden Displayed. Produced by The Royal Horticultural Society, updated in 1974 and last reprinted in 1979, this manual covers home fruit growing in a concise, yet impressively thorough way. Used as a companion volume to Stebbins/Walheims's Western Fruit, Berries and Nuts, The Fruit Garden Displayed takes you some steps further (English) culture and (English) variety-wise. The book's greatest value to us lies in the excellent, well-illustrated descriptions of special planting/training techniques like fan, espalier and cordon. Such techniques are fairly poorly understood in our area, yet are, in my opinion, an ideal choice for urban gardens, micro-climate control, mechanical dwarfing, etc.

Where do you buy this book? Well, not at your local bookstore!! The quickest way is to grab a friend, hop a flight to London, take the Green Line to Wisley and buy a copy for £2.20 (about \$3). While you're there you can see the wonderful demonstration plantings of "home fruit gardens". Gosh . . .! Next best is to order a copy from this address: The Royal Horticultural Society, Vincent Square, London SW1P 2PE, England. You can take a chance and send maybe \$8 cash. Or a personal check for maybe \$10. Or you can get a bank draft. If you're very conservative you can even write first and ask how much money you should send! Is the book really worth the effort? Well . . . yes.

APPLES NEEDED FOR HOS SHOW by Helen Zuelow

The Home Orchard Society is putting together an excellent fruitshow for Oct. 13 & 14. Several WCTFA members are already set up to display fruit, but we hope many more of you will join them and participate, too. The HOS has supported area shows with hard work and full cooperation. Let's keep their goodwill and ensure their future participation by matching their involvement. They still have enough tables, 8' x 3' size, to accomodate us. Tables will be completely prepared for exhibitors and signs made. You will only have to set out your fruit! Exhibitors will receive free passes to the show. They will need to know who is coming during the next several weeks. Call or write: Maggie Nelson, 3000 NE 115th Avenue, Portland, OR 97266, 503-760-4721. She will need to know: (1) your name, (2) how many tables you will need, (3) where you are from, and (4) name of fruit varieties you are bringing. Also you can call Helen Zuelow (827-2939) if you need additional information. Remember our apples will be inspected (see the apple maggot article), so transport in sealed plastic bags and arrive on Friday the 12th. You may set up until 8 p.m.

A fruit show brochure will be sent to all WCTFA members later this month.

DONATIONS FOR RESEARCH

As most of you probably know, one of the aims of our association is to furnish such financial support as is possible to the Northwestern Washington Research And Extension Unit, Washington State University, Mt. Vernon, Washington for tree fruit research. It has been our practice in the past to donate any money in the treasury at the end of the year, over and above what we estimate it will take to run the club during the ensuing year. Last year we donated \$1,000. This year the Board of Directors has again voted to donate \$1,000. In the spring newsletter we usually remind members that donations from individuals for this purpose will be greatly appreciated by Dr. Norton. Somehow this reminder was omitted form the spring newsletter this year, and not many donations were received. It is still not too late

DONATIONS FOR RESEARCH CONTINUED

to contribute something to the fund. Just make your check out to the association. Specify that the money is to be used for research at Mt. Vernon and mail it to the treasurer. Remember, all such donations are deductible for income tax purposes.

NOFC REPORT by John Parker

From observing the success of our Chapter #1 of the Western Cascades Tree Fruit Association over on the northern part of the Olympic Peninsula, we are concluding that a serious effort should be made to grant charters to other groups around the Puget Sound basin for them to organize and share the many cooperative benefits received from being a part of this rapidly growing association.

Chapter #1 celebrated their second birthday and hold their monthly meetings at Gardiner, Washington in the Gardiner Community Hall. Each meeting night a special presentation is given on seasonal topics and members are urged to bring problems to the meeting for solutions and to share fruit growing experiences. Brian Quigly, manager of the large Greymarsh Farms, gave a fine report on his trip to Scotland to visit the berry and fruit orchards there. Kristan Johnson, who has devoted much of his life to helping handicapped people, showed some slides and gave a wonderful talk on how people who are confined to wheelchairs can garden and grow fruit as a physical therapy.

The meetings are held at 7:30 PM on the third Thursday of each month and all members of WCTFA are cordially invited to attend. Gardiner is in the Sequim sun belt.

NOFC will be having a fruit tour in their area in October. Late apples will be featured. Time and location will be published in the next newsletter.

APPLE MAGGOT QUARANTINE by Rick Reisinger, Snohomish County Extension Agent

The apple maggot, Rhagoletis pomonella, is a major pest of apples in the north-eastern U.S. and western Canada. In 1979, the apple maggot was first discovered in the Pacific Northwest in the Portland, Oregon area. Since then apple maggot adults have been found in Skamania, Klickitat, Lewis, Pacific, Cowlitz, and Clark counties in western Washington. In Eastern Washington, flies were caught in a 7 mile square area in Spokane. To date, neither apple maggot flies, maggots, nor fruit damaged by them have been detected in commercial orchards in Washington state.

The Washington State Department of Agriculture has developed an extensive statewide survey for the apple maggot. Traps designed to catch apple maggot flies, and a few closely related flies, are set up throughout much of the state and concentrated in areas where flies have been previously caught. These traps are set up in late June and are monitored through September. This program is expected to continue for several years and will monitor the distribution of the apple maggot. Control programs for apple maggot are currently under way in Skamania, Klickitat and Spokane counties.

Apples are the main host for the apple maggot. Other hosts include hawthorne and crabapple. Early cultivars (varieties) of apples are particularly susceptible to early damage by the apple maggot.

Eggs are laid just below the skin of the fruit and cause a "dimpling" on the fruit's surface. Maggots develop in the fruit to a size of about 3/8" long. Brownish tunnels are evident in fruit with internal rot developing later. The adult fly is 1/4-3/8" long and has a black abdomen. Females have 4 white bands on the abdomen, males have 3. Wings are clear and have black bands.

An apple maggot quarantine is now being enforced by the Washington State Department of Agriculture. This quarantine effectively prohibits the movement of apples anywhere in western Washington without a permit (unless the fruit has been grown and packaged by a commercial grower using standard pest control practices).

This quarantine would make it impossible for apple hobbyists and gardeners to take fruit to the Fruit Show in Portland. Jim McCausland from Sunset Magazine, has

APPLE MAGGOT QUARANTINE CONTINUED

contacted Dr. Judith Freeman from the WSDA and has negotiated a temporary exemption from the quarantine for the Show if we agree to the following rules:

- 1) Participants must package show-bound fruit in plastic bags when it's picked (use plastic garbage bags with ties around apple boxes, for example, and zip-lock freezer bags for smaller quantities).
- 2) The bags cannot be opened until they reach the show in Portland.
- 3) All display or tasting apples from Washington are subject to inspection by the Washington Department of Agriculture at the show site in Portland before the show begins.
- 4) All fruit that is infested with apple maggot will be destroyed.
- 5) We agree to publicize the fact that all apples taken to the show from Washington for i.d. must be carried in plastic bags that cannot be opened before arrival at the show.
- 6) We will have an apple maggot display with handouts, pictures, and so forth to educate the public about apple maggot.
- 7) We will have two apple i.d. booths: one for apples originating in Washington and one for apples originating everywhere else. The Washington Department of Agriculture may have an inspector on hand to check Washington apples for maggots. At the very least, whoever is doing Washington apple i.d. will also check each apple for maggot, and record where the apple is from so that the state can get an idea of the maggot's distribution in the state.

As involved as this may seem, I think it's more than fair. It will give the state a better idea of maggot distribution, will give the public some idea of the nature of the problem, will hopefully not spread maggot, and it will allow the show to go on unhampered by a potentially devastating quarantine.

Dr. Freeman will be on hand at the research station Open House August 30th to answer questions (see enclosed open house schedule). Information on apple maggot is available from your Cooperative Extension office. Ask for EB 1227 Apple Maggot in Washington for 25¢.

Additionally, I understand the WSDA will inspect individual orchards and certify your fruit for a \$12/hour fee. Contact WSDA for inspections if you need them for movement other than to the Fruit Show (753-5062).

EUROPEAN CANKER MOVING IN by Rick Reisinger

This past winter and spring brought more than its fair share of problems for fruit growers west of the Cascades. The record setting cold snap in December and unusually wet spring have resulted in unusual and severe disease developments. We all know what a mess scab, mildew and brown rot have been this year (not to mention a terrible pollination year) but this spring also saw increasing development of a rather uncommon fungus disease called European Canker.

European canker showed up in commercial and backyard plantings of apples throughout Western Washington this year. The cankers, perennial in nature (they continue to enlarge year after year if left unchecked) have been an important disease in European orchards for years infecting both apples and pears.

Cankers usually develop at a pruning cut, leaf scar or where a young twig or branch has broken off. Cankers can appear on new wood where they may encircle small branches causing the branch to "die-back" from the canker out. This type of canker is reddish, water soaked and may develop white fungus spores on its surface.

First year cankers can also develop on large stems on the main trunk. These are reddish, elliptical in shape, and develop a sunken appearance. The edge of the canker appears dead and flaky.

EUROPEAN CANKER MOVING IN CONTINUED

Older cankers develop either an "open" or "closed" appearance. Open cankers appear sunken with a series of concentric calluses, a callus being added each year. A "hole" develops in the center of this canker. Closed cankers are covered with dead bark and appear swollen.

Apple varieties with Macintosh in their parentage (i.e., Spartan, Jonamac, Macoun, Tydeman's Red) seem to be particularly susceptible although cankers have been reported this year in Jonagold and Bartlett pears.

Control of this disease is difficult due to the ability of this fungus to disseminate spores nearly every month of the year. Control centers on prompt removal of suspicious cankers being careful to make clean cuts. Sterilize tools between cuts with rubbing alcohol. These prunings should be disposed of or destroyed.

This disease is notorious for entering the plant through leaf scars so a spray at leaf fall with bordeaux 8-8-100 or fixed coppers or ziram 76 WP should be beneficial. Earlier fall sprays for anthracnose control should also be of benefit. Because entrance is also gained through pruning wounds great care should be taken to make clean cuts with sharp tools.

Take a look at your trees. Suspicious cankers should be diagnosed by your county Extension staff.

NC:jc
8/1/84