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5 Norton's '88 research report on
cots, peach, nectarine, plum, asian
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WESTERN CASCADE FRUIT SOCIETY

11 WCFS officers & board
12 Orchard Mason Bee

SUMMER 1989

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Aug 9-11 NAFEX meeting near Toronto, followed by visit to New York State Fruit Testing Cooperative at Geneva we hope. Let us know if you're interested.
- Aug 15-20 HOS Summer Fruit Display at Clackamas County Fair, Canby, Oregon.
- Aug 26: 10 am WCFS Board Meeting at WSU/Snohomish County Extension Education Center in south Everett (exit east on 128th St off I-5). Chapter presidents or representatives are requested to attend since chapter participation in Fall Fruit Show will be discussed. Emory would like a tentative list of the amount of space individual or chapter exhibitors will need. Board meetings are open to all members.
- Sept 1 9:30 am Open House at Mt. Vernon Research Station, located 3 miles west of Anacortes (take Kincaid exit) on Memorial Highway (536). This will be an informal educational day with orchard tours in morning and afternoon, fruit displays and lectures. Bring a sack lunch and goodies to share for picnic in tree house area. Note: Date has been changed to Friday.
- Oct 2-15 14 day fall horticultural tour of Japan led by Dr. Norton. For more information, contact Asian Sky Travel Service, 100 NE 56th, Seattle, 98105; 527-4852.
- Oct 7 WCFS Fall Orchard Tour on Olympic Peninsula
- Oct 13-14 All About Fruit Show in Hillside Mall, Victoria by B.C. Fruit Testers Association.
- Oct 14-15 HOS All About Fruit Show, Clackamas County Fairgrounds, Canby, Oregon.
- Oct 21-22 WCFS Fall Fruit Show at Port Orchard Armory. Start thinking about your fruit displays, there should be plenty of room. Set up time will be Friday afternoon. Commercial booth space is available from Dick Tilbury, 723-9009.
- Oct 27 Open House at Mt. Vernon Research Station. Note: This date has been changed 3 times. As of last Wednesday, this is the correct date.

WESTERN CASCADE FRUIT SOCIETY
(Formerly, Western Cascade Tree Fruit Association)

President: John Parker
60 Tala Shores Drive, Port Ludlow, WA 98365, 206 437 2313

Secretary: Paul Donaldson
916 NW 122nd St., Seattle, WA 98177, 206 364 0161

PRESS RELEASE, for publication September, 1989

* * *

HOME GARDENERS TO LEARN ABOUT MODERN

FRUIT GROWING AROUND PUGET SOUND

This year's Fall Fruit Show by the Western Cascade Fruit Society (formerly, Western Cascade Tree Fruit Association) will be at the Armory in Port Orchard, Washington on October 21 and 22. Varieties of apples and other fruits which can be grown around homes in the Puget Sound area and which often surpass the flavor of market fruit will be displayed.

Other displays and features will include tasting of apple varieties, identification of your own apples, selection and incorporation of fruit varieties into home landscapes, new nut tree varieties for the Puget Sound area, grafting instruction and practice, nesting the gentle orchard mason bee, and commercial displays of custom cider presses and other fruit culture tools. Lectures and slide shows will be presented each day. Admission will be one dollar per person with accompanying children under twelve free.

The Armory is located on Highway 160 in Port Orchard (near Bremerton), between Jackson Avenue and Bethel Road. Ample free parking and overnight space for self contained RVs are available. Many restaurants and food outlets are nearby.

Further information can be obtained from the Western Cascade Fruit Society, 916 NW 122nd St., Seattle, WA 98177, 206-364-0161.

Hours: Saturday 10 A.M. to 5 P.M. Sunday 10 A.M. to 4 P.M.

Potential Cultivars for a Commercial "Organic" Orchard

Washington State University
Research & Extension Unit
Mt. Vernon, WA 98273

Robert A. Norton

Is it possible to grow a profitable commercial "organic" orchard in western Washington? I don't know, but it appears that if it can be done anywhere, this is one of the most promising places to try.

One should realize that going "organic" means a lot more than picking a scab resistant cultivar. It also means mechanical weed control, different fertilizer practices, possibly modified pruning practices and the acceptance of lower yields. In addition, it means marketing cultivars which are usually lower in dessert quality and perhaps other factors such as shelf life, appearance, and storability.

In spite of this, there is a potential for commercial production either of "certified" organic or IPM (Integrated Pest Management) tree fruit in this area. The obvious first consideration is to select the most disease resistant cultivars available. The cultivars listed below are suggested for possible commercial use in western WA or other areas of similar climate where the primary disease problems are apple scab and powdery mildew. The assumption is made that insects eg. codling moth, leaf roller and aphids can be controlled with timely applications of biologicals eg. Dipel or other acceptable pest control materials eg. Ryania, Sulfur, Oil and Surfactants. This may or may not be a correct assumption depending upon the degree of control desired. Many other scab resistant cultivars are in the development stage and are being obtained for testing as soon as available.

Scab Resistant Cultivars (in approximate order of maturity):

Cultivar	Maturity	Scab ^{1/}	Mildew ^{1/}	Comments
Williams Pride	Early Aug.	I	L	Large size, good quality
Redfree	Late Aug.	I	L	Attractive, solid red, mediocre dessert quality
Discovery	Early Aug.	L	L	Attractive red, good dessert, cracks without GA
Dayton	Early Sept.	I	L	Fair flavor, tart, cherry red color, crisp

Akane	Early Aug.	L	M	Red striped, hangs well, good dessert, needs careful thinning
Buckley Giant	Early Aug.	L	M	Large size, culinary, gets bitter pit, yellow with red stripes
Chehalis	Mid Sept.	I	S	Golden type, soft flesh, juicy, mild, dessert type
Prima	Mid-late Sept.	I	L	Red stripes, good tree, fair dessert, good culinary
Elstar	Mid-late Sept.	L-M	?	Excellent dessert after storage, tart, red & yellow
Shay	Late Sept.	I	M	Mac type, productive, spur type, fair flavor, color
Macfree	Early Oct.	I	L	Mac type, lacks size, fair dessert
Branley's Seedling	Early Oct.	L	M	Excellent cooking apple, large, flat, susceptible to scald in cold storage
Jonsfree	Early Oct.	I	S	Similar to Jonathan, less color, acid, fair-good quality
Freedom	Mid Oct.	I	L	Color, flavor mediocre, flesh similar to Mac
Liberty	Mid Oct.	I	L	Macoun type, excellent dessert, size lacking
Nova Easygro	Mid Oct.	I	L	80% red with dull finish, fair dessert

1/ Scab-mildew ratings I = Immune; L = Low, under 10%;
M = Moderate 10-30%; S = Susceptible, over 30%

1988 MT. VERNON RESULTS

From: Robert Norton and Gary Moulton

Subject: Report of 1988 Results and Plans for 1989

Highlights of 1988 activities and developments in the tree fruit area were as follows:

1. In March I was appointed to the Apple Crop Advisory Committee of the National Germplasm Repository which meets in Geneva, New York. Current efforts are to insure that all apple germplasm which may be of value to breeders and collectors be obtained and propagated at Geneva, New York and the IR-2 program based at Prosser, Washington be used for the propagation of virus-free cultivars of commercial interest. I have lists of both collections if anyone is interested.
2. In July, August and October, we presented three seminars for retail nursery employees to help educate them on fruit varieties. People shopping at nurseries are frequently sold varieties not adapted to their area and this seminar was designed to reduce this problem.
3. In October, I was privileged to attend the All About Fruit Show in Hillsboro and speak. It was a real thrill to be presented a Life Membership in HOS at that meeting. This hangs proudly in my office along with the Life Membership from the Western Cascade Tree Fruit Association and the Skagit Men's Garden Club received in 1987. Also, I was honored by the Washington State Nursery and Landscape Association with their "Educator of the Year" award at their annual meeting this past January.
4. As many of you know, we have been trying to evaluate new varieties from Asia, particularly Japan. About 23 of these were added to our trials at Mt. Vernon and Prosser, even though they were obtained from undocumented sources. Through the efforts of Dr. Gaylord Mink, WSU Plant Pathologist at Prosser, we have been able to obtain permission to import varieties from foreign sources directly into the Prosser station where they will be indexed for viruses and possibly grown in post-entry quarantine for their horticultural potential. This is a tremendous breakthrough allowing us to more quickly evaluate all kinds of new varieties under our conditions. From the standpoint of the home grower, it will mean he will be able to get new varieties through nurseries quicker and easier than ever before. There are many details to be worked out, particularly as to who pays for the necessary indexing and evaluation.

5. American Pomological Society - Some of you advanced testers and growers may already be members of this Society devoted to the advancement of variety research. I have just been elected Vice-President and chairman of the Recruitment Committee, so watch out. I'll be after you to join. Membership is \$16.00 per year which includes a subscription to the Fruit Varieties Journal. I'm hoping to broaden the Journal to include much more information of value to non-commercial growers but it will take some time and help to do this. Please let me hear from you if you are interested in joining, in writing for the Journal or if you are a past member who didn't think it was worthwhile.

Publications

- Puget Gold Apricot. HortScience. 23(3):639.
- Rescue Pear. HortScience. 24(1):170.
- Orcas Pear. HortScience. 23(6):1090.
- Apple Cultivars for Puget Sound. EB 1436. 71 pp (\$8.00).
- Growing Grapes for Wine and Table in the Puget Sound Region. EB 0775.
- Relative Susceptibility of Certain Peach Cultivars to Summer Infection of Leaf Curl. Fruit Varieties Journal. 42(1):28-29.
- The Apple Variety Picture - New Choices for Growers. Proc. WA State Hort. Assn. 83:109-115.
- New Fruit Varieties From East and West. NAFEX Pomona. 21(1):41-42.

New Varieties Showing Promise at Mount Vernon

APRICOTS:

Tomcot (PA 7005-8) This was an early cot with a good set on a young tree. The fruit was medium to large, attractive and good flavor.

Sunglo This cot set heavily on a moderately vigorous tree. Fruit was attractive and flavorful. Size is medium to small.

Puget Gold This tree again set heavily for us. Size was good, flavor good, appearance attractive, cracking low.

Hargrand This cot set heavily for us and again produced extremely large fruit. Flavor is fair to good, finish is good.

PEACHES:

Brighton Looked good this year as did many of our peaches. This was the first fruiting year and it set well. Fruit is large, attractive with good flavor.

Sweet Haven Heavy set, medium to large fruit, good color, attractive, good flavor (first fruiting year).

Marken Again looked good, attractive, good flavor, large size.

Frost Sets heavy and is leaf curl resistant, fruit has good flavor but is a little fuzzy. Good home garden variety.

NECTARINES:

Harko Looked attractive this year and set well, flavor was good. Cracking was low this year but has been a problem in some years.

Jungle Looked quite attractive this year, appearance was quite attractive and flavor was good.

PLUMS:

Beauty This Santa Rosa type plum sets very well here in Mount Vernon. Flavor and appearance very similar to Santa Rosa. Fruit is very juicy and sweet.

Mathley Sets extremely well, small, sweet and juicy red plum with a red flesh.

Seneca This large fruited European type plum is good fresh or dried, color is purple, flesh is gold and pit is freestone. Flavor is excellent.

ASIAN PEARS:

Shinsiki This variety looked quite attractive again for us this year. The fruit was attractive and the flavor was good.

Kosui Fruited for the first time this year. The set was heavy, size was moderate, flavor was excellent.

Chojuro This variety again did well for us, set heavy, size medium to large, flavor was good.

UC 8-46 and UC 17-63 Both of these new selections were large with 8-46 weighing as high as 1.35 pounds each.

Flavor for both was very good, appearance, however, was not very attractive.

EUROPEAN PEARS:

Orcas this pear is flavorful and is good for both fresh eating and drying.

Rescue This very large, red-striped pear is very attractive with good flavor.

APPLES:

Centennial Crab This crab is very sweet, attractive and productive with excellent flavor.

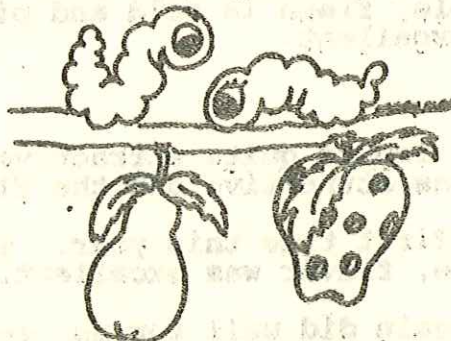
Empress (NY642) A Mac-type apple similar in appearance to Empire. This was its first fruiting year but it set very heavily, fruit was small to medium and flavor was good.

Empire The set was good, fruit had excellent color and good flavor.

Lyngolden An attractive Golden, pink-blushed apple with excellent flavor. Set was heavy.

Elstar The yellow red-blushed apple did very well for us this year. Flavor was good and got better in storage.

Karin de Sonnaville A connoisseur variety with strong flavor which mellows after about one month of cold storage. Vigorous tree. New from Holland.



ITS EITHER A MUTANT, OR
MOTHER NATURE HAVING
FUN WITH US!

FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS . . .

March 12, 1989: Spring meeting of the members of the WESTERN CASCADE TREE FRUIT ASSOCIATION at the Snohomish County Extension Center. Seventy members signed the roster during the business meeting.

9 am: The President opened the meeting and expressed enthusiasm for the response to efforts to promote apple culture in the Puget Sound Area.

Action on proposal to change the name of the Society to

- 1) Northwest Fruit Growers
- 2) Puget Sound Fruit Growers
- 3) Puget Fruit Growers.

Deliberations occupied most of an hour. Motions or questions not receiving a majority vote are not described here. Complete notes

are filed with the Secretary.

Question: Shall we change the name of Western Cascade Tree Fruit Association? A majority voted "yes" by raising their hands.

Question: Shall we accept one of the three proposed names? A majority raised their hands to indicate "yes".

Question: Should we include the term Society in our new name? By show of hands, twenty "yeas" and eleven "no's"

Question: All those in favor of the the name Puget Sound Fruit Growers Society? Twenty-two in favor, two opposed.

Final vote on name: Fruit Growers of Puget Sound: Twenty-two "yeas".

Vote to table the name until the Board Meeting later today for acceptance or reconsideration: Twenty-six in favor.

By-law change: Motion carried to change Article V, Section 1 to:

The officers of the association shall consist of a President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer (or combined Secretary-Treasurer). Officers may be elected from the board or the membership and shall be elected each year by a majority vote of the Board of Directors to serve for one (1) year.

*The following is deleted:

...or until removed by the Board of Directors, provided that no officer shall serve more than two (2) consecutive terms in the same office, and provided further that the office of Secretary shall not be so limited.

Election of new Board Members: Board members whose terms are up are 1) Paul Donaldson, 2) Emory Leland, and 3) John Davey.

Nominations were 1) Bill Davis, 2) Lyle Knudson, and John Davey. Nominations were closed and these nominees were thereby elected.

The business meeting was adjourned about 9:50 am and moved directly to the program as published in the Spring Newsletter.

WESTERN CASCADE TREE FRUIT ASSOCIATION

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR 1988

INCOME

Dues	\$2090.00
Rootstock & scionwood sales	2003.97
Admissions to fruit show	1109.00
Rental from booths & kitchen at fruit show	315.00
Advertisements in newsletter	100.00
	<u>5617.97</u>

EXPENDITURES

Postage	\$432.40
Filing fee for non-profit organization	5.00
Ferry fares of board members	135.24
Rootstocks	1191.66
Sales tax on rootstock & scionwood sale	152.07
Secretary's expenses	156.01
Donations for research	1600.00
Fruit show expenses	936.25
Seed money to new chapters	200.00
Insurance premium	463.00
Cash boxes	50.02
	<u>5321.65</u>

Actual bank balance on Dec. 31, 1988

\$2694.55

Submitted by:

Walter L. Lyon
Walter L. Lyon
Treasurer

Approved by Auditing Committee:

Tom Berry
Tom Berry
Eugene Lewis
Eugene Lewis

ROOTSTOCK & SCIONWOOD SALE

1989

Receipts from rootstock sale (Includes 140 Karmijn trees)	\$2778.22
Receipts from scionwood sale	<u>196.00</u>
Total	2974.22
Cost of rootstock (& trees)	<u>1701.77</u>
	1272.45

1989 WCFS OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

John Parker, President (NOFC President)
60 Tala Shore Dr, Port Ludlow 98365; 437-2313

John Davey, Vice President (1992)
3519 SW 17th St, Seattle 98166; 246-6144

Paul Donaldson, Secretary (not a board member)
916 NW 122nd, Seattle 98177; 364-0161

Walt Lyon, Treasurer (1990)
19717 80th NE, Bothell 98011; 483-5574

Nancy Jo Cushman, Newspaper Editor (not a board member)
9210 131st NE, Lk. Stevens 98258; 659-6087

Dave Battey, Historian (not a board member)
40404 SE 70th Dr, Snoqualmie 98065; 888-2504

Dr. Robert Bordeaux (1990)
15211 Wash. Av NE, Bainbridge Island 98110; 842-4865

Joe Bullock (San Juan Chapter President)
PO Box 109, Deer Harbor 98243; 376-2071

Bill Davis (1992)
21611 92nd Av W, Edmonds 98020; 771-8978

Lyle Knudsen (1992)
6228 129th AV SE, Bellevue 98006; 746-9980

Robert Kuper (Tahoma Chapter President)
28316 80th AVE E, Graham 98338; 847-7213

Ben LaLonde (1990)
491 Lotzgessel Rd, Sequim 98382; 683-4055

Embry Leland (Seattle Tree Fruit Society President)
7014 29th AV NE, Seattle 98115; 523-6363

Ed Lewis (1991)
9615 NE 14th, Bellevue 98004; 454-3615

Max Meyers (Peninsula Fruit Club President)
11102 126th AV NW, Gig Harbor 98335; 851-4422

Pat Rothenberg (1991)
744 Wallin, Bremerton 98310; 337-0652

Ron Schaevitz (Piper Orchard Chapter President)
1227 NW 117th St, Seattle 98177; 362-1227

Norm Schut (South Puget Sound Chapter President)
5619 Sunrise Beach Rd, Olympia 98502

Dick Tilbury (1991)
4916 52nd AV S, Seattle 98118; 723-9009

TRY THE ORCHARD MASON BEE

By Dick & Pat Rothenberg

The orchard mason bee (*Osmia lignaria*) is a friend of the gardener. They are a wild species of bees, solitary, with no queens, workers, hives or honey. They are native to the United States and Canada. If given proper accommodations, they will stay in an area to work the trees and flowers. These bees are gentle and seldom sting.

Their life span is quite short, about 6 weeks. Extension Bulletin 0922 published by WSU is very informative and helpful.

The challenge is timing and location for the "trap nests". The first of April appears to be the beginning of the season here in Bremerton. The orchard mason bee starts showing up on the side of a shed by my patio about then. This is a clue for the location of the nests.

These bees look like blue-black flies. They fly around, land momentarily then fly more, looking for holes to use as nests. They seem very restless at first--scouting out the area, mating and preparing to carry out their destiny.

We find there are several types of nests they will accept. Wood blocks with holes drilled in them are the best of all.

The bee seals off the back of the hole with mud. Then she gathers pollen and nectar and packs it in the hole to feed the larva. Next she lays an egg, then seals it all with more mud. She continues this process until the hole is full. It takes about 3/4 inch for 1 cell.

The larva hatches in a few days and eats the supply of food. In about 10 days, it spins a cocoon and pupates. In the fall, the bee changes to an adult, but remains in the cell until spring. The male bees chew their way out first, the females a few days later. Thus starts the cycle all over again.

If you want to control when the bees emerge in the spring (for an orchard), you can store the nests in refrigeration at 35 to 40 degrees. This should be done late September or October so the bees will be matured. The nests need to be brought out of refrigeration, warmed to room temperature, then placed in the orchard a few days ahead of the blossoms opening. This will give them time to emerge from the nests, mate and get their bearings.

The orchard mason bee is a superior pollinator. They visit up to 1600 blossoms a day and pollinate 90 to 95% of them. They do not fly far from the nest and work an area thoroughly.

We started experimenting in the spring of 1987 with 4 nests. By the middle of May when the season was over, we had 147 holes filled. In 1988 we put up 10 nests and had 656 holes plugged. This spring we had a total of 14 nests with 1453 holes plugged. It is obvious that our population is growing very fast.

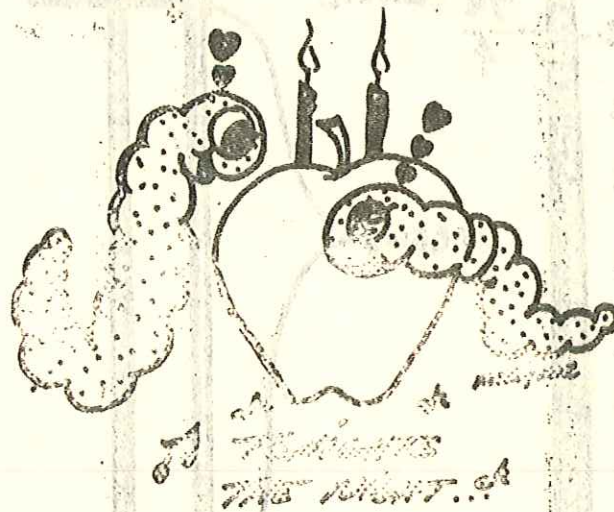
We have noticed that certain locations are preferred to others. The windy south side of our house is not liked at all. The shed wall off our patio is a favorite spot. This has a western exposure and is in a protected location. If one spot doesn't work, try another. Observe where they stop and rest or sun themselves. This is a good spot for a nest.

Building a nest is quite simple. Dick used a 4 x 4 about 8 inches long. He drilled 5/16 inch holes all the way through, about 1/2 inch apart. This was mounted on a piece of 1 x 4 about 10 inches long. Holes drilled in the 1 x 4 provide a way to fasten the block to a building.

I hope this will encourage others to experiment with these bees. Most people have the supplies to build a nest and the bees are out there looking for nests to use. Just put up a few nests and find out.

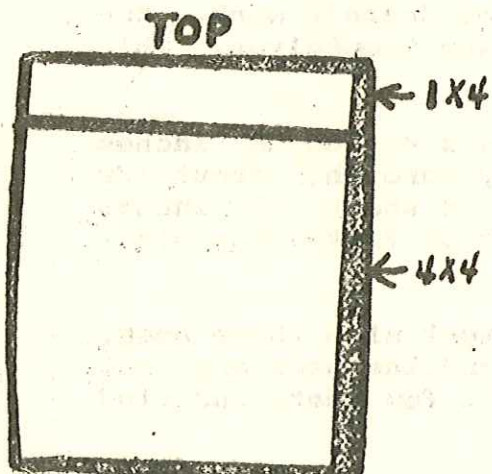
If you have any questions write or call. I will answer what I can.

Dick and Pat Rothenberg
 744 Wallin St
 Bremerton 98310
 206-377-0652



ORCHARD MASON BEE NEST

by ROTHENBERG JUNE 1989

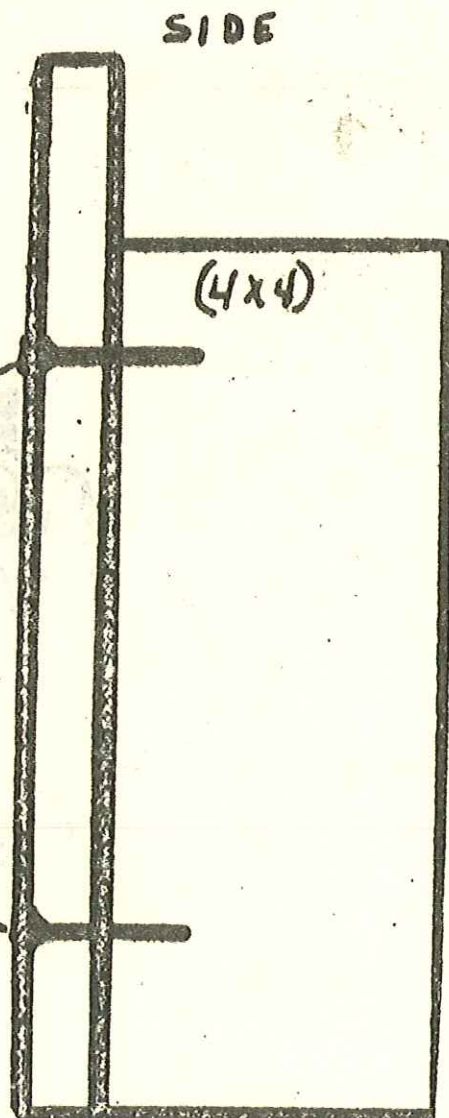
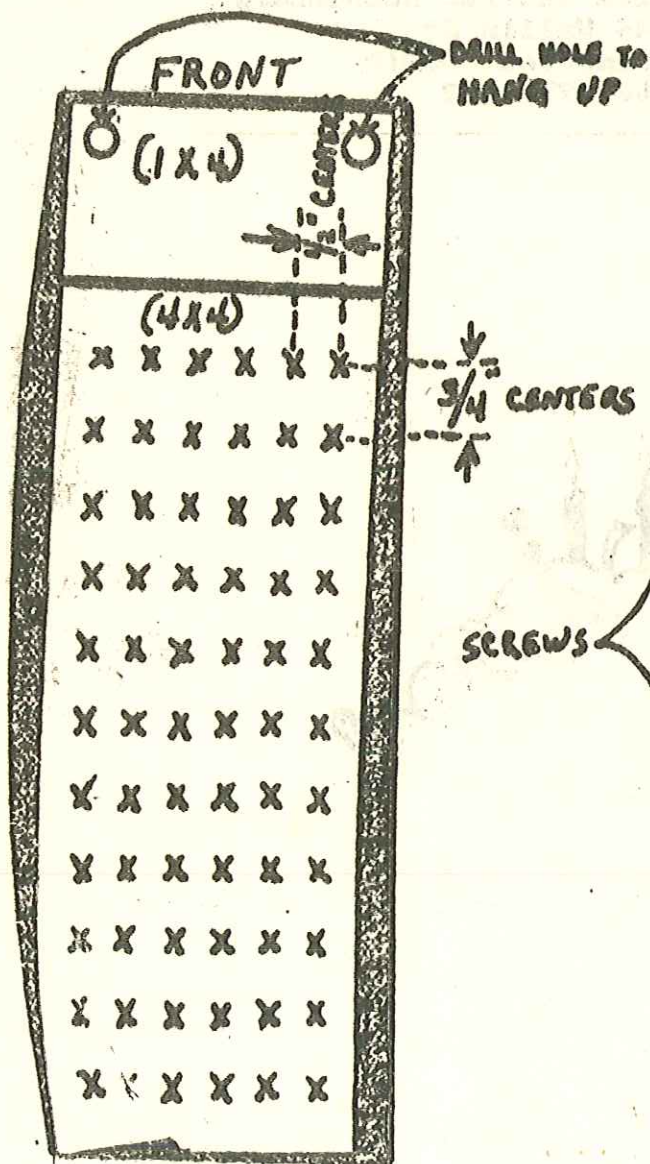


MATERIAL LIST

1- 4" X 4" - 9" Long

1- 1" X 4" - 10" Long

ON X-DRILL $5/16$ " HOLES
FASTEN 1x4 TO 4x4 WITH SCREWS



TIDBITS FROM THE CORE

by Nancy Jo Cushman

Two new publications on fruits are available:

New England Apple Production Guide, \$4, The Bulletin Center, Cottage A, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA 01009. Dr. Norton says this is a dandy publication.

Fruit, Berry and Nut Inventory--an inventory of nursery catalogs listing all fruits, berries and nuts available in the United States, \$19 (softcover), \$26 (hardcover), Seed Savers Exchange, Rural Route 3, Box 239, Decorah, Iowa 52101. Quantity discounts also available.

WCTFA is now Western Cascade Fruit Society, I think--depends upon who you talk to. Anyway, board members at the May 8th meeting voted in this latest name change--although it has not been approved yet by the membership or registered with the state. we'll need a new logo--anyone care to volunteer?

Please feel free to copy the enclosed press release on the Fall Fruit Show by Paul Donaldson and pass it on to interested persons. The more publicity, the better.

Paul Donaldson is doing an educational exhibit for the Fall Fruit Show on using fruit trees in the home landscape. He needs slides and/or pictures from members showing fruit trees in the yard and also would like landscape plans. If you can help Paul, please give him a call at 364-0161 in Seattle.

Hope you enjoy the cartoon drawings in this newsletter. Master Gardener Mary MacLean did them.

Well, the newsletter is late again. Can't use the excuse of a bad back since I used that one last time. How about having 2 teenagers, one of which graduated this year? Or do you like the excuse about having a tour at my place for the Seattle Tree Fruit chapter? It's amazing the number of projects you can find to do and keep putting off) after living in the same place for 20 years.



WESTERN CASCADE TREE FRUIT ASSOCIATION
9210 131st N.E.
Lake Stevens, WA 98258

Bulk Rate
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Marysville, WA 98270
Permit No. 16



ASSOCIATION

Address Correction Requested

DICK & MARILYN
TILBURY
4916 52ND AVE S
SEATTLE

DEC89

WA 98118

PIPER ORCHARD NEEDS HELP

The Piper Orchard Chapter has planted a dozen two year old apple trees in the Piper Orchard. Since the orchard is situated on a hillside remote from both water and electric supplies, the chapter is thinking about options regarding watering the young trees during the summer months. Since one possibility might be a small gasoline powered water pump, we wondered if any of our Newsletter readers might have knowledge of such a pump that the chapter might borrow, rent, or buy. The pump should deliver about 5 gallons per minute raising water about twenty feet maximum. This might require a motor rated at 3 horsepower. Advice from our members who have had experience in solving this kind of problem is also welcome. Contact the Chapter Secretary whose address is 916 NW 122nd St., Seattle, 98177 (206 364 0161) with ideas.