

# WESTERN CASCADE FRUIT SOCIETY

## NEWSLETTER

SPRING / SUMMER 1993

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### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Problems in preparing the Spring 1993 Newsletter have resulted in the necessity to publish a combined Spring/Summer 1993 Newsletter at this time. The Board of directors will be taking action at the next meeting to resolve the problem so that we do not have this happen in the future. We anticipate publishing larger Fall and Winter Newsletters to make up for this loss.

**GOOD NEWS FROM MOUNT VERNON:** Many of you are aware that the Fruit Tree Research Director at Mount Vernon, Gary Moulton, had received an attractive offer of employment from an Eastern Washington tree fruit warehouse company. Some of us feared that the loss of Gary would effectively eliminate the WSU Tree Fruit Research at Mount Vernon. However, WSU Research Management were able to make a counter-offer that convinced Gary to stay at Mount Vernon. So it appears that Fruit Tree Research at Mount Vernon will continue. Thank you Gary and thank you WSU.

### FALL ORCHARD TOURS — OCTOBER 1

The society put together an unusual offer of tours for this Fall. The program will allow you to visit multiple Eastern Washington orchards, with the option of staying over night and attending the Central Washington Fair in Yakima on the way home:

- 10:00 AM Tour orchard of **Bob Purvis**, 641 Hoffman Road, Selah, WA
- 11:00 AM Tour orchard of WCFS member **Harvey Wederspahn**, 190 Frosty Lane, Selah
- Noon Drive from Selah to Prosser WSU Research Center with stop for **lunch** at restaurant of your choice or brown bag lunch at the Prosser Research Center.
- 2:30 PM Tour of **Prosser WSU Research Center** to be lead by Dr. Bob Norton and the Research Center Staff.
- 5:00 PM Return to Western Washington or to a motel of your choice in order to attend the **Central Washington Fair** in Yakima on October 2 during the return trip.

### Lower Yakima Valley Motels

#### PROSSER:

Prosser Motel, 206 6th & Highway 12, Prosser, WA (509) 786-2555

Barn Motor Inn, Wine County Road, Prosser, WA (509) 786-2121

#### SUNNYSIDE:

Red Apple Motel, 412 Yakima Valley Highway, Sunnyside, WA (509) 839-2100

Friendship Inn, 724 Yakima Valley HWY, Sunnyside, (509) 837-4721 or (800) 424-4777

Townhouse Motel, 6th & Yakima Valley HWY, Sunnyside, (509) 837-5500 or (800) 342-4435

Nendels Inn, 6th & Yakima Valley HWY, Sunnyside, (509) 837-7878 or (800) 547-0106

## **RECOMMENDED RESTAURANTS IN TOUR AREA**

**Extra Special Pantry**, 214 S Sixth Street, Sunnyside (In the Mini-mall). An open air restaurant serving healthy lunches prepared in Scandinavian surroundings. The hot casserole and tossed salad is the most robust meal, while sandwiches on cracked-wheat bread with local Gouda cheese are a popular choice. The pineapple cake and carrot cake are rich, moist and generous.

**Dykstra House Restaurant**, Off of I-82 Exit #73 and drive 1½ miles on Wine County Road. 114 Birch Avenue, Grandview WA. The main feature is bread made from hand-ground whole wheat from the Horse Heaven Hills. Rich desserts and a few choice Washington wines complement the mansion's (a 1914 graystone) menu, which changes daily. The thick bean soup is tasty.

**The Blue Goose**, 306 Seventh Street, Prosser. An early-bird dinner menu, breaded veal and teriyaki chicken rounds out a menu of heavily sauced pastas. Washington wines are featured.

**El Ranchito**, Take exit 54 off I-82 and follow the signs. 1139 E First Avenue, Zillah. This is a real Mexican-American restaurant, including a tortilla factory. The food is a la carte, the creamy burritos, tasty nachos and especially the barbacoa, a mild, slow-barbecued mound of much beef served in a tortilla shell are so good. Also has a Mexican bakery and a store of hard to find Mexican items.

## **TOURS MAP ON THE NEXT PAGE**

## **LOWER YAKIMA ORCHARD SUPPLY HOUSES**

While you are in the area for the tour and/or fair, please note that the following businesses may have unique items that are generally unavailable on the West Side:

**Bleyhl Farm Service, Inc.**, 1722 Eastway Drive, Sunnyside (Sprays & Equipment)  
**Big R. Stores**, 1900 Yakima Valley Highway, Sunnyside (Equipment & supplies)  
**Wilson Irrigation & Orchard Supplies**, 1902 S 11th, Yakima (Trellis, posts, irrigation)  
**McCormick Fruit Tech**, 6111 A Englewood, Yakima (Fruit pressure gauges, refractometers, starch iodine kits)

## **FALL NEWSLETTER DATES**

Please have your input to the editor for the Fall Newsletter by Monday, October 11. The newsletter will be mailed by October 29. Thank you very much.

## **EDITOR'S MESSAGE**

I want to thank our president, Chuck Parkman, for his help with this edition of the newsletter.

One innovative way to submit information for publication in the WCFS Newsletter is on disk. If you have an IBM computer, or a McIntosh with a "superdrive" which gives it the capacity to write in IBM format, then you can save time and editing by sending your information (either 5¼" or 3½" diskettes) directly to me. Word for Windows can successfully convert just about any text format.

## **SEPTEMBER BOARD MEETING**

The next WCFS Board Meeting will be on Saturday, September 11, from 9AM until 11 at the Mount Vernon Experiment Station Treehouse. The agenda will focus on Fall Fruit Show plans. The secondary topic will be bulletin publishing.

Board Meetings are always open to WCFS members (to all, according to the by-laws). Come with suggestions, ideas, comments, criticisms, kudos, etc..



## WWTFRF MOUNT VERNON FIELD DAY & HARVEST TOUR DAYS COMING

The following special events at the Mount Vernon Research Station (1468 Memorial Highway - Mount Vernon) are open to everyone, and are free to Western Washington Tree Fruit Research Foundation members and a nominal donation (or membership in the foundation) to non-members.

**September 11 - Early Apple and Pear Day (11AM-2PM)**

~~September 25 - WWTFRF Annual Fall Field Day~~ 8:30 AM - 4 PM

**October 9 - Late Pear and Apple Harvest Day (11AM-2PM)**

Contact Gary Moulton at Mount Vernon (206) 424-6121 for more information. To get to the WSU Mount Vernon Research Station, leave I-5 at exit #227. Proceed west on the Memorial Highway (#536) for about 3 miles. The station will be to your left.

## WCFS FALL FRUIT SHOW COMING UP NOVEMBER 6 & 7 AT CUH

Our 1993 Fall Fruit Show will be on Saturday, November 6, from 10-5 and Sunday, November 7, from 10-4, at the Center for Urban Horticulture at the University of Washington, 3501 NE 41st, Seattle (Go north past Husky Stadium and turn right).

Admission is \$2.50 for adults. Persons 16 and under are free. All WCFS volunteers have the option of being admitted without charge.

See hundreds of apple varieties and other fruit for the Puget Sound Country, taste many varieties, bring your no-named fruit for identification. Press up to two boxes of your own fruit on our presses. See exhibits on fruit care, orchard mason bees, and the best fruit varieties for Western Washington.

### PROGRAM (Note specific days in text)

- |         |   |
|---------|---|
| 10:30AM | <b>Managing Fruit Trees In Your Home Landscape</b><br><i>George Pinyuh, WSU Extension Agent</i>                                     |
| 11:30AM | <b>Tested Fruit Varieties For The Puget Sound Area</b><br><i>Michael Eames, Local fruit grower</i>                                  |
| 1:30PM  | (Saturday Only) <b>Cooking With Fruit (2.5 hrs)</b><br><i>Francois Kissel, Maximilien's</i>   |
| 1:30PM  | (Sunday Only) <b>Fruit Pest Control With Least Environmental Hazard</b><br><i>Cisco Morris, Grounds Manager, Seattle University</i> |
| 2:30PM  | (Sunday Only) <b>Of Mice And Moles In Your Home Orchard</b><br><i>Dave Pehling, WSU Extension</i>                                   |

## PRESERVING YOUR FRUIT FOR THE 1993 FALL FRUIT SHOW

The major feature of our Fall Fruit Show is the displaying of the many varieties of fruit grown by our members. Since the next WCFS Newsletter will be mailed in late October and the show is November 6 & 7, this is your reminder to preserve specimens for your displays. **This has been a difficult year for many varieties of fruit, making it even more essential that proper storage techniques be used for preservation.** Store five to seven specimens of each fruit variety you wish to display along with a note of the harvest time and the variety name. This year almost all fruit will need to be refrigerated to keep until show time.

## **MEMBERSHIP HONORS GIVEN ON MARCH 6**

For many years, the Western Cascade Fruit Society has had the option to recognize outstanding contributors to the organization with "Life" memberships. Many of the pioneers in our organization have already been honored. At our 1993 Spring Meeting, **Aaron Haynes** and **Norm Schut** were nominated and this honor was bestowed on them by a unanimous voice vote from the floor. Also, a special plaque honoring Life Member **Walter Lyon** as an "Outstanding Leader" in our organization was presented by Paul Donaldson

From the Peninsula Chapter we have the following affirmation: Arron Haynes was an original member of the Peninsula Chapter. He has devoted much time, effort, money and expertise to our members. "Mr. Community Service" is a fitting description for this person who participates in all the chapter events, continues the quest for more knowledge of cultivars, encourages grafting demonstrations at the local high schools, presses cider free at the public Farmer's Markets and who always can provide at least a hundred or more apple cultivars for a fruit show. At present he has under cultivation more than 600 cultivars. He continues to experiment with rootstocks, strawberries, conifers and ornamentals.

We at Peninsula Chapter are honored to have Aaron Haynes as a Life Member in the Society.

## **JOIN THE FRUIT BREEDERS GROUP**

About 35 people attend the Fruit Breeders Seminar at the WSU Research Station at Mount Vernon, sponsored by the WWTFRF on April 17, 1993. Gary Moulton proposed that a group of Western Washington Fruit enthusiasts join together with the tree fruit research staff at Mount Vernon Station to form a volunteer group to develop new fruit cultivars for Western Washington climatic conditions. A supply of apple seeds from some cross pollination made by the WSU Mount Vernon staff are already in storage at the Mount Vernon station. Gary offered some of them for use by volunteers to get the new fruit breeders going. For those who want to find what is involved in this type of effort, an article in the Spring, 1993, POMONA publication of NAFEX by Roger Way of the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station, will explain the details of just how to proceed. Those WCFS members who like to participate in this volunteer fruit breeders group please contact Chuck Parkman at P. O. Box 128, Carlsborg, WA 98342. or call on (206) 452-6600.

## **SUBTROPICAL FRUIT INTEREST GROUPS**

A number of WCFS members have expressed an interest in forming a subtropical fruit interest group in the WCFS. Those wishing to try raising such fruit would need a cloche such as Gary Moulton has been using at Mount Vernon. Those WCFS members interested in participating in such a group contact Chuck Parkman at P. O. Box 128, Carlsborg, WA 98342. or call on (206) 452-6600.

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**CHECK YOUR LABEL TO SEE IF YOUR WCFS DUES ARE DUE**

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## **FRED JANSON HAS WRITTEN A NEW BOOK**

Nafex co-founder and friend of amateur fruit growers, Fred Janson, has just completed a book about "Early (pre-1825) fruit people and their writings." Let us know if you see it advertised for sale — Dave Battey, Snoqualmie

## **APPLE STORAGE OBSERVATIONS FROM THE PENINSULA GROUP**

The Peninsula Fruit Club shares the following observations on apple storage as of April 3, 1993:

**Ashmead's Kernel** - Yellow russet skin, golden interior. Firm and flavorful.

**Karminjn** - Starting to soften and break down. Flavor O.K..

**Brock** - Slightly yellow interior. Those remaining starting to soften. Flavor poor.

**Nova Easygro** - Very white interior. Starting to soften. Flavor poor.

**Lord Lambourne** - Most breaking down. Flavor poor.

**Sandow** - White interior, slightly mealy. Mild flavor.

**Spokane Beauty** - Yellow-green flesh, juicy. Flavor good.

**Swaar** - Gold undertones showing in light red skin. Yellowish, moderately firm flesh. Still juicy.  
Flavor very good.

**Elstar** - Yellowish skin and flesh, juicy. Good flavor.

**Roxbury Russet** - Still firm, no signs of break down.

**Melrose** - One of the BEST KEEPERS! Flavor still great.

Our apples stored in clear plastic bags in the "garage" refrigerator. Storage times vary, but majority were picked in late October.

*"Ramblings from Eastview Farm, Gig Harbor" — Tom & Carol O'Connor*

## **ARE YOUR WCFS DUES DUE?**

Check the upper right-hand corner of your WCFS Newsletter mailing label. If you find a big mean green reminder label on your bulletin or if the month and year on the mailing label are past, **you are in danger of being dropped from our mailing list**. If the date is up to three months in the future, you have one more newsletter coming. Please remit dues to Ray Elder, 2539 NE 108th Place, Seattle, WA 98125, or to your chapter treasurer.

## **ORDERS FOR NEW FRUIT BERRY AND NUT INVENTORY (2ND ED)**

Anyone interested in the new second edition of the extremely useful *Fruit, Berry and Nut Inventory* book from the Seed Saver's Exchange can save 40% off of the list price by ordering through our WCFS Treasurer. Please send your name and address and number of copies wanted, along with preference of hard or soft cover to Ray Elder, 2539 NE 108th Place, Seattle, WA 98125. Discounted prices are \$13.20 for soft cover and \$16.80 for hard cover.

## **OSU 1988-92 APPLE VARIETY TRIALS — PROGRESS REPORT**

The 1988-92 Oregon State University apple variety trial summary progress report is completed! This 67 page report covers 128 clones, 41 more than last year. Added features are:

1. The report of the Mid-Atlantic Fruit Variety Showcase taste panel.
2. Research showing how preferences for apple flavor differ around the world.
3. Data showing the profound influence of the "El Nino" warmth on apple maturity and quality in 1992.

For a copy of this report, send a check payable to OSU AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION in the amount of \$5.00, and mail to Dr. Bob Stebbins, Department of Horticulture, Oregon State University, Ag & Life Sciences 4017, Corvallis, OR 97331-7304. Please mark "apple report" on the outside of the envelope.

*Dr. Robert Stebbins — Oregon State University*

Please note that Part One on Orchard Mason Bees was in your last newsletter

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# Orchard Mason Bees - Part Two

## CULTURAL DETAILS AND AVAILABILITY

BY ED LEWIS — LAST UPDATED 4/16/93

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**THE LITTLE STINGLESS BLUE ORCHARD MASON BEES.** (*Osmia lignaria*) are very efficient pollenizers and require minimal care. They are not always present in the more urbanized Puget Sound neighborhoods due to the lack of favorable conditions and abundant commercial spraying of ornamentals.

**THE MASON BEES ARE ACTIVE** from mid-April through mid-June in the Puget Sound area. I have observed them collecting pollen and nectar from the following native plants: Vine Maple, Mahonia, Gaultheria, Mountain Ash, Madrona, blackberries, wild hawthorn, wild plums, and wild holly. They do require a source of damp soil that contains enough clay to seal up their egg chambers.

**THEIR FLIGHT RANGE** is around 100 meters and they will be looking for nest holes near a source of food and clay. They readily accept artificial substitutes such as plastic straws or 5/16" holes drilled in blocks of wood (no cedar). These substitutes can be used as traps both at home and elsewhere to increase your own bee population.

**I HAVE FOUND THE LARGEST NATURAL COLLECTIONS** of Mason Bees in cracks between shingles on the sunny side of houses with shingle siding. Scan for bee activity around the nearest structure with shingle siding. Also, look for the clay plugs that seal up the cracks containing their larva. If you find no first-hand indications of the bees, don't give up. Try setting the nest traps near blackberry patches where a source of mud is nearby.

**TO GET AN EARLIER START WITH MASON BEES** you may wish to buy a few bees to jump-start the buildup of your collection. Two-hundred bees is probably a minimum to start with. I probably will have some bees to sell this Spring.

**FOR A PAMPHLET ON ORCHARD BEES** and/or a supply of bees, you may write to Orchard Bees, 111 Cindy Street, Auburn IN — 46706. Cost for the catalog is \$3.

**CALL ME IF YOU NEED MORE INFORMATION** or wish to reserve any bees at 10¢ each. My telephone number is (206) 454-3615.

*Edward M. Lewis — Bellevue*

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## HISTORY CORNER

### THE "HOOD RIVER PIPPIN" — AKA NEWTON

A previous newsletter contained a request from Rich Rempfer of Olympia. He had found wonderful apples in the produce department labeled "Hood River Pippin" and wondered what the variety was and if he could grow it. Since I gave his address, it is possible that one of you wonderful folks out there has written to Rich and enlightened him. However, just in case this didn't happen, I ran into a "Hood River Pippin" too — and recognized the historical significance of this fine apple.

The number of synonyms is often the mark of a good apple variety. The newly named "Hood River Pippin" has several that you might recognize. Newton, Newtown Pippin, Green Newton, Yellow Newton and Albermarle Pippin are just a few of the well known ones. In fact, the synonyms alone take up 5½ column inches in Muriel Smith's definitive *Apple Register of the United Kingdom*.

When Ulysses Prentiss Hedrick published his landmark Cyclopeda of Hardy Fruits in 1922, the Newton was the only apple he rated as **BEST**. Sadly, for Rich and most of the rest of us, Hedrick goes on to state that, "Unfortunately, this apple can be grown in perfection only in certain regions as: Hood River Oregon; the Albermarle region, Virginia; and along the Hudson River, New York." This does not mean that we, in the Puget Sound area, should not try to grow Newton, but that we should recognize that it may not mature, and may not be of highest quality when it does. Hedrick goes on to say, "By virtue of high quality, long keeping and beauty of fruit, together with good tree-characteristics, Green Newton has high standing in regions where it thrives. Experiments at Geneva New York, show that it is a most excellent apple to use in breeding." WCFS members should note that Spartan is McIntosh X Newton.

It is difficult if not impossible to find a more "historical" American apple. Benjamin Franklin is credited with starting the apple export business from the Colonies by introducing Newtons to the English Court in 1759. John Bartram, the Quaker botanist, sent scions to England and Thomas Jefferson was growing the variety at Monticello in 1778.

Hedrick quietly notes that the Green and Yellow Newton are the same variety. He should not be so modest. This was a nomenclature problem among professionals for 150 years before experiments by Hedrick resolved the issue. Color differences are due to climate and soil.

Thank you, Rich, for recognizing the "Hood River Pippin" as an apple worth asking about. It is, arguably, the best apple in the world.

*Dave Battey - Snoqualmie*

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## WCFS OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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9-8-77

**WESTERN CASCADE FRUIT SOCIETY EDITOR**

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**WESTERN CASCADE FRUIT SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION**  
*(Please indicate whether you wish standard WCFS membership or affiliation with a chapter. Yearly dues for standard or chapter memberships are \$10, except as noted)*

NAME(S)  NEW  RENEWAL

STREET ADDRESS

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STANDARD \$10( ) NORTH OLYMPIC \$10( ) PENINSULA/KITSAP \$10( )  
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**YOU MAY PAY YOUR CHAPTER TREASURER FOR BOTH CHAPTER & SOCIETY DUES**