

# WESTERN CASCADE FRUIT SOCIETY

## NEWSLETTER

SPRING

1994

### AS TO THIS NEWSLETTER EDITION

When I first thought of doing the WCFS NL, by what-the-heck offering when no-one else did last winter, the NL was a blob; no form at all. Sorting it out included the small shock of finding that the bulk mail permit is not movable - one starts anew a long paper trail. Then I thought I'd be replaced when I made it clear I don't drive in Seattle or environs. But the thing started to unravel, helped a good bit by Ed Lewis; and now the NL is, in my mind, properly compartmented with warm bodies at each station - if it was before I didn't hear about it and so the Editor's job is within bounds.

What it requires is a spider-in-the-web, rather than the madly rushing reporter; accepting, collecting, making items, fitting them onto sheets - of course by computer; no one but an old pappy-guy like me would be caught dead doing cut-and-paste, as was done for this edition - and mailing it to the next station, who at present is Ed Lewis, to whom I like many others am indebted for advise and help.

Wherefore I say to you -- come forward, you computer-wise (but literate) volunteer living in the midst of the WCFS maelstrom, not, as with me, out in far exurbia and even beyond local phone calls.

In a nutshell, I'm ready to be superseded.

*Pete Kaiser*

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### NOTES ON ITEMS IN THIS EDITION

AEYAAOUU! Not another apple list! Well, I am fed up with, among other things too numerous to mention in mixed company, lists containing apples I never heard of, and those not fully tried in various places. I remember when the Geneva catalog kept saying that Akane is better than McIntosh; Jonamac is better than MAC (it is in some climates). And Granny Smith was a fad, wasn't it?

So the list presented here is for a specific area, in response to clear questions as to reliability; with each respondent an experienced 'home orchard' grower, and limited to no more than ten selections. I thought the consensus was remarkable, and probably the best I have seen for advice to a neophyte.

FIREBLIGHT we don't have, but False Fireblight, two kinds; pseudomonas, the current bogey-word, and Boron Deficiency. You should have the Ext.-PNW Bulletin 121, NUTRIENT DISORDERS IN TREE FRUITS. Still in print; color photos of Boron Blossom Blast. Also the effects of Magnesium deficiency, which ranks with Zinc as chief problems in my area.

HOLES IN LEAVES I am asked about frequently now. On trees with tender soft leaves, especially Asian Pear, round holes are likely cut by Leaf-cutting Bees, which are relatives of your popular Orchard Bee. I think I see them on flowers: stubby bee with black or dark round abdomen. And of course the ubiquitous leafroller.

**APPLE VARIETIES FOR THE NORTH OLYMPIC PENINSULA  
MARCH 1994**

Ten experienced 'amateur' growers responded: "In your judgement, please list perhaps five or up to ten apple varieties that are 'best' for this area, this year, and for future productive years."

'Best' means good - very good - quality, reliability, reasonable success in growing in this area, and few quirks.

These lists are the result. Notable: the wide range of trial, forty varieties plus those tried and discarded; and the really quite high consensus on the top nine varieties.

LIST I      Number of votes, out of 10 voters:  
                  8 votes: Gravenstein, Jonagold, Melrose  
                  6 votes: Spartan  
                  4 votes: Elstar, Gala  
                  3 votes: Akane, Chehalis, Liberty  
                  2 votes: Alkeme, Discovery, Holstein, Hudson's Golden Gem,  
                                  Idared, Jonamac, McIntosh, Spigold

LIST II      Top nine in order of average picking dates:(each 3 votes or more).

	<u>DISEASE RESISTANCE</u>	<u>POLLENIZER</u>	<u>AVERAGE PICK DATE</u>
Gravenstein	slight-moderate	NO	late Aug/early Sep
Akane	yes		early Sep
Chehalis	yes		mid Sep
Elstar	yes		late Sep?
Liberty	yes		late Sep/early Oct
Gala	NO! SCABBY		late sep/early Oct
Spartan	yes		early to mid Oct
Jonagold	slight	NO	mid Oct
Melrose	slight		late Oct

LIST III      Five disease-resistant apples, all good pollenizers  
 (All 3 votes or more)

	<u>AVERAGE PICK DATE</u>	<u>STORAGE</u>	<u>COLOR</u>
Akane	early Sep	no	red striped
Chehalis	↓	short	yellow-green
Elstar	to	yes	red-orange
Liberty	↓	yes	red
Spartan	mid ↓ Oct	very long	dark purplish-red

LIST IV      22 varieties with one vote each. Among many factors, look for micro-climate restrictions on these.

Belle de Boskoop	King	Tydeman's Red
Karminj de Sonnaville	Lodi	Burgundy
Centennial Crab	Fuji	Red June
Buckley Giant	Prima	Fameuse (Snow)
Esopus Spitzenburg	Orenco	Cox Orange
Kidd's Orange Red	Hawaii	Criterion
Williamss Pride	Summerred	Golden Delicious (Starkspur)
Rambo (Summer -)		

EK

### **FALL FIELD DAY AT MT. VERNON RESEARCH STATION**

The Mount Vernon Research Station has scheduled the Fall Field Day for Saturday October 1, 1994. This is a "U-Pick" for members of WCFS. Hours to be announced in the next newsletter. Keep the day open if you wish to participate.

### **MAY 7, 1994 WCFS BOARD MEETING**

The main order of business was discussion of the Fall Fruit Show scheduled for the weekend of November 5 and 6. Committee chairs are as follows: Show Manager, Joe Zeppa (with Dick Tilbury as alternate or assistant); Publicity, Chuck Parkman; Site, Show Setup, Bill Davis; Food, Marlene Falkenbury; Membership, Evelyn Hoyme; Commercial, Joe Zeppa; Education, Dick Tilbury; still needed are chairpersons for speakers and fruit ID. If you would like to volunteer call Chuck Parkman-or any member of the board who may be a local call for you- and join the fun. If any of these committee chairpersons call for your help, please say yes. After the meeting was adjourned the Board inspected the facilities at the Edmonds Community College as a possible site for the 1994 Fall Fruit Show. President, Chuck Parkman says it looks very good. Lots of space for displays, lots of parking, and easy access from the freeway. The large size of the gymnasium will be a challenge to fill adequately.

### **WCFS CAPS ARE HERE!**

The medium grey corduroy with colorful cornucopia and fruit machine embroidered above the bill are very attractive and well made. The cost is \$10.00, see your Chapter president or order from WCFS Treasurer. There is a limited number available.

### **1995 FLOWER SHOW**

WCFS will again have a booth at the 1995 Flower Show at the Convention Center (which is usually in February). Volunteers will be needed to man the booth. More information as to the exact date in future newsletter.

### **WCFS EXPERTISE**

The expertise of members of the WCFS is well known. We have been asked to have 4-6 members at a WSU Master Gardeners Advanced Training session in Puyallup July 15-16. Van Bobbitt, State Master Gardener Coordinator stated that his purpose in asking us is to expose the MGs to the tree fruit expertise residing in Western Washington communities. Chuck Parkman, John Davey, Ernie Mazzie have volunteered to be on the panel. Dick Tilbury is seeking 3 more volunteers. The format would be the panel discussing tree fruit raising on the West side followed by questions from the audience. We are scheduled for the afternoon of July 16, in the Pavillion Building. Any Volunteers? Call Dick at 206-723-9009.



BEES THAT CALL ARIZONA HOME MAY be more efficient plant pollinators than honeybees, boosting

Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service. He works at the Carl Hayden Bee Research Center in Tucson, Arizona.

# Native bees worth study as pollenizers

fruit and vegetable production in fields and commercial greenhouses, says Stephen L. Buchmann.

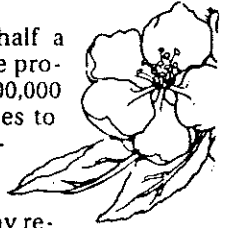
Buchmann is an entomologist with U.S.

*bus sonorus*, that is 500 times faster than the normally reliable honeybee in pollinating tomato flowers.

Buchmann hopes similar studies will lo-

cate the best bees for commercial crops. Alternative bees—other than the traditional standby, the European honeybee, *Apis mellifera*—are big business in some places, he noted.

In Europe, about half a dozen commercial bee producers rear 80,000 to 100,000 colonies of bumblebees to pollinate greenhouse-grown tomatoes. And in Bonita, Arizona, a Dutch-owned company recently opened a 10-acre tomato green-



house, using about 20 bumblebee colonies for pollination. This native bee is known as *Bombus occidentalis*.



syrupy nectar and granular pollen for the colony.

*Apis mellifera*, brought to the United States by settlers from Europe, efficiently pollinates crops worth more than \$10 billion every year. These bees "accidentally" pollinate plants as they move from flower to flower collecting the

But non-*Apis* bees are required to pollinate other crops effectively—such as tomatoes, chili peppers, eggplant, cranberries and blueberries, said Buchmann. Often called "buzz pollinators," some non-*Apis* bees pollinate blossoms while they collect the high-protein pollen to feed their young.

"One native that looks promising for pollinating tomato plants," said Buchmann, "is a giant carpenter bee or *Xylocopa*. It performs buzz pollination when it curls its body around the pollen-containing anthers.

"This bee flexes its powerful flight muscles so fast that they create sonic energy that causes pollen to shoot out of the hollow-pored anthers on the tomato flower. So much pollen is released, that it looks like a cloud, enough to pollinate the flower and to stick to tiny hairs on bees," Buchmann added.

"We want to develop artificial nests to make mass rearing of the buzz pollinators possible. The most promising material seems to be several different kinds of woods and bamboo," said Buchmann.

# Malling 9 rootstock holds its own



he Malling 9 EMLA rootstock, widely used in intensive apple orchards in the United States and Europe, will be a tough one to beat. But there's a great effort underway to find the ultimate dwarfing rootstock.

Dr. Tony Webster of Horticultural Research International, East Malling, England, said M.9 has been around for 115 years. It was at one time used as a filler between more vigorous trees, but in the last 20 years has come into its own.

The rootstock is dwarfing, precocious, has a good yield efficiency, produces large fruit, and is resistant to collar rot.

But on the negative side, it is difficult to propagate, has poor anchorage, dislikes drought, and is sensitive to fireblight, woolly apple aphid, crown gall and winter injury.

Breeders around the world are trying to produce a superclone of M.9 that would have the same benefits but fewer of its drawbacks. And researchers at Cornell University, Geneva, New York, think they may have found one with their CG.16. "This is the one we think we've been waiting for," said Dr. Jim Cummins. "So far, it looks better in every way."

A cross from Ottawa 3 and *Malus floribunda*, CG.16 produces no suckers or burr knots, has excellent anchorage, is not brittle, is almost immune to fireblight, is resistant to crown rot, and produces adequate

fruit size, he said. It was scheduled to be released to nurseries around the United States in March for propagation, but will not be officially introduced and marketed until it has been further tested.

Webster said a rootstock from France, the Pajam 1, has sparked interest among English and European growers. It is about 10 percent less vigorous than the M.9 EMLA clone, and has the same cropping efficiency. It produces fruit of a consistent size.

The Polish P2 is between M.9 and M.27 in size. It has the advantage of winter hardiness, but is susceptible to woolly apple aphid and fireblight. Webster said it is worthy of more testing. P.16, which is similar in

size to M.9 is precocious, but not hardy.

The Russian B.9 is a promising rootstock in the M.9 size range. It is hardy and fruit size can be good. The Bemali rootstock from Sweden is sized between M.9 and M.26, but yield efficiency and fruit size are not as good as M.9. However, anchorage and hardiness are better, Webster said. The J.9 from Germany has the advantage of being easier to propagate than M.9.

"M.9 is a very good stock to beat," Webster concluded. "Unless you have very cold conditions or a resistance that's of particular value, it's difficult to say plant anything other than M.9 EMLA."

(Except on very light soil)

Dr. Bruce Barritt, horticulturist with Washington State University in Wenatchee, said rootstocks in the M.9 size range, provide the most desirable balance of tree growth and cropping in Washington conditions. They include P.2, V.1, B.9, O.3, MAC.39 and M.26.

In a test of 23 different rootstocks with Golden Delicious, Red Delicious and Granny Smith, Barritt found that some of the most dwarfing rootstocks—such as M.27 or P.22—do not give enough production. Smaller rootstocks usually produce more fruit and less tree, while larger rootstocks about the size of M.7 produce more tree and less fruit.

Barritt said V.1 has a better root system than M.9 and is worthy of more testing. "I would not plant large acreages, it's too new," he said, "But it has promising features. I think it's worthy of trial."

The rootstock B.9, which is slightly larger than M.9, has the advantage of being more winter-hardy, and Barritt said there is enough information about this rootstock to use it in commercial plantings.

BY GERALDINE WARNER  
Wenatchee, Washington  
News Editor

4-1-94 - Good Fruit Grower

WSU CROP PROTECTION GUIDE  
FOR  
THE COMMERCIAL TREE FRUIT AREA OF CENTRAL WASHINGTON

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Well, kids, that's what the bulletin described below should be titled, and shame on WSU editors. This editor is asked to put in the notice and does so but with subversive comments.

1. The title--. It's remindful of those put-down comments in WSU and Mt. Vernon issues about 'apples only for home orchards'. The All-About-Fruit-Shows have for years been billed as showing the produce of Home Orchards.

2. Of the insecticides listed for use, half are in Toxic Categories I and II (out of 4), the most toxic ones, requiring special care, and clothing, and reentry times, etc.

3. The chief, or only, fungicide -sulfur- used by many of us, and by our only North Olympic commercial grower, is not mentioned.

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**WSU EBO419 1994 Crop Protection Guide for Tree Fruits in Washington**

The 1994 edition of Washington's tree fruit protection guide, containing the most recent information on legal use of available chemicals and restrictions, will be available the first week in April, at a cost of \$3.50 per copy. Orders placed now will be mailed as soon as the books are printed.

The 92-page guide offers information on the pesticides, plant nutrients and growth regulator materials that may be used on apples, pears, cherries, prunes, plums, peaches, apricots, and nectarines in Washington. Many regulations also apply in Oregon and Idaho. Pesticide safety, reentry intervals, and regulatory information are included, as are sections on hazards to bees and plants. Washington State University has issued this bulletin annually since 1950.

WSU cannot accept orders for less than \$10.00 so WCFS is offering to make this a group purchase. If the order exceeds 34 copies we will receive a 25% discount. Please add \$1.25 if you want the Treasurer to mail it directly to you, otherwise it will be given to your chapter president at the next WCSF Board meeting tentatively scheduled for July 9 or 23. Send your check made payable to WCFS to: WCSF Treasurer  
18709 24th Ave SE  
Bothell, WA 98012

Orders should be received by the Treasurer no later than June 10, 1994, using the form below.

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EBO419 1994 Crop Protection Guide for Tree Fruits in Washington @ \$3.50 or \$4.75

Copies ordered \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$3.50 \_\_\_\_\_ @\$4.75 Chapter \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

NOTICE TO PURCHASERS OF HUNGARIAN GRAFTING TOOL

About 35 members participated in the group purchase of the Hungarian grafting tool early this year. After several months of heavy use several facts are emerging. The success rate of grafts using the tool appears to be high. However, it appears the quality of construction of the tool is not equally high. Of the approximately one dozen tools purchased by North Olympic Fruit Club members, two have already failed due to poor quality construction. The plastic handle on one broke in use due to an air bubble inside the plastic handle when it was being cast. On another tool, a metal part holding the cutting knife separated from the frame due to a faulty silver soldered joint.

This is a notice to all buyers that the tool should be handled very carefully, as they definitely are not of high quality construction. If you have what you consider to be a failure due to faulty manufacture you can contact the distributor from whom we purchased the tools, A. M. Leonard, Inc. at their toll free number 1-800-543-8955.

**Dennis the Menace**



"You can't get much more grown up than THAT."

*Just a general editorial comment.  
That's all. HONEST!  
Ed.*

To all WCFS Members, from Bob Glanzman:

At the request of the WCFS Board of directors, I am researching the potential of holding an early fruit show that better reflects the diversity of our organization. Tentatively, the show will be held on Saturday, September 17, 1994 from about 11:00 am to 5:00 pm at the Snohomish WSU extension office in McCollum Park (south Everett). The idea is to display as much of the diversity of fruit, nuts, and berries that are available at that time, and that won't last until the November Fruit Show. Please take the time to fill out the following form indicating what fruits, nuts, and berries you will be able to commit to displaying on that date.

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, I will participate in the September 17, 1994 show as a volunteer \_\_\_\_\_

I will help with table set-up starting at 8:00 am \_\_\_\_\_

I will help with directing people to parking places \_\_\_\_\_

I will help with organizing and selling refreshments \_\_\_\_\_

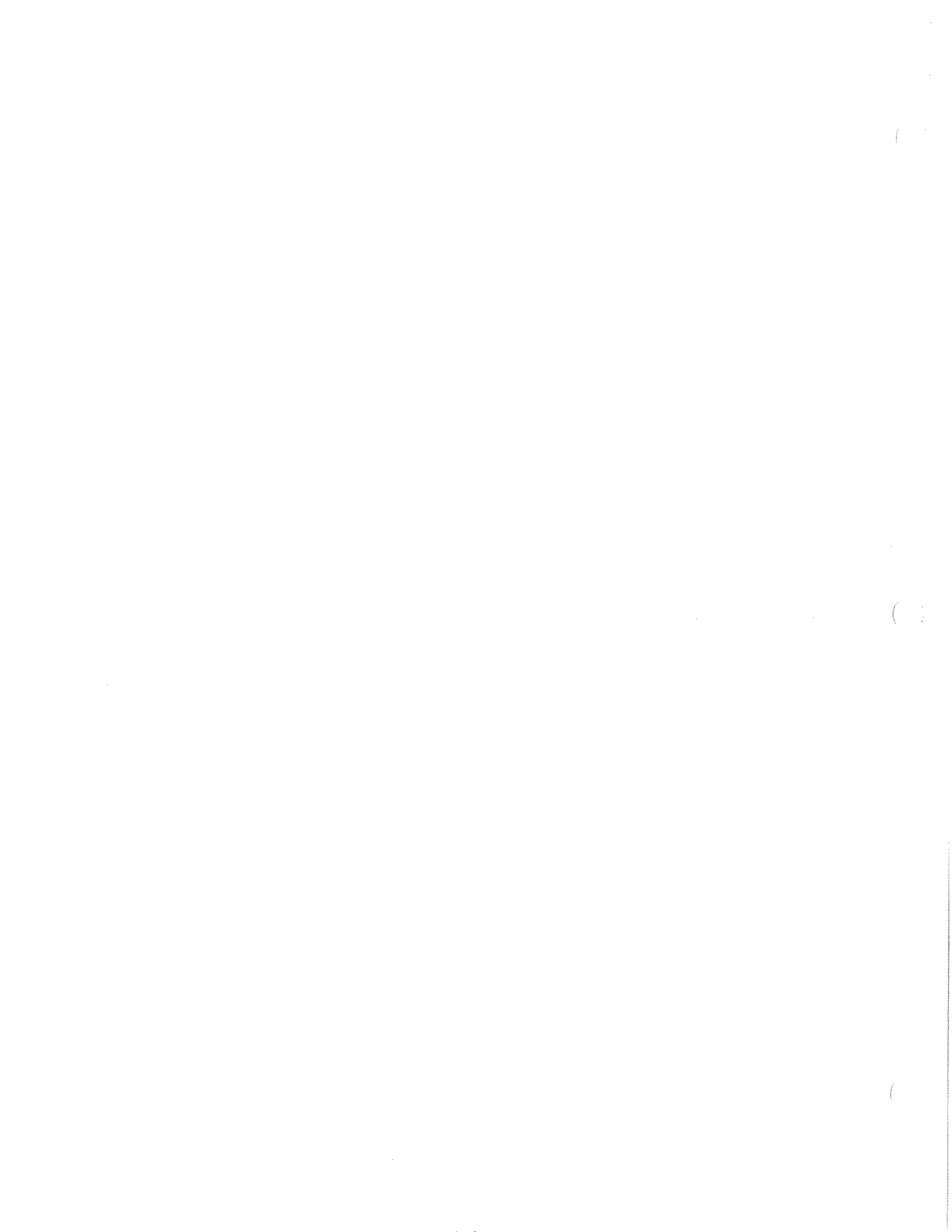
I will help with clean-up starting at 5:00 pm \_\_\_\_\_

I will help with publicizing the show \_\_\_\_\_

Based on my records from previous years, I will have the following fruits, nuts, and berries ready for display: (please indicate species and variety)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please fill-in the above requested information and mail this questionnaire to:  
Bob Glanzman, 1220 N.E. 90th, Seattle, WA 98115.





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WESTERN CASCADE FRUIT SOCIETY

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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)*

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NAME(S)  NEW  
 RENEWAL

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STREET ADDRESS

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CITY, STATE, AND ZIP

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PHONE **PLEASE CHOOSE ONE CATEGORY BELOW**

STANDARD \$10( ) NORTH OLYMPIC \$10( ) PENINSULA/KITSAP \$10( )  
 PIPER \$10( ) SEATTLE TREE FRUIT \$18( ) TAHOMA \$10( ) S. PUGET SOUND \$10( )

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ENCLOSED FIND \$5 EXTRA FOR WESTERN WASHINGTON FRUIT RESEARCH

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Check to receive "opportunity descriptions" for society participation.

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Make checks payable to WESTERN CASCADE FRUIT SOCIETY and mail to:  
WCFS Treasurer, 18709 24th Ave SE, Bothell, WA 98012  
YOU MAY PAY YOUR CHAPTER TREASURER FOR BOTH CHAPTER & SOCIETY DUES