

WCFS 20 YEAR HISTORY
RUFF INDEX

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TWENTY YEARS OF WCTFA & WCFS
by Dick Tilbury

If our records are correct March 29, 2000 will mark the 20th anniversary of our Association/Society. If you're wondering about the two acronyms in the title, WCTFA stands for the Western Cascade Tree Fruit Association, the original name of our organization. In 1989 the name was changed to the current Western Cascade Fruit page#> Society (WCFS). See page 10 for the history of this name change.

Evelyn Troughton, our newsletter editor and treasurer, asked me to try to document the organization's history for our 20th anniversary. My wife and I joined the organization in February 1985 and Marilyn has kept a file of all the newsletters since our joining. Fortunately we obtained Ed Lewis' history file of the organization before he passed away. Between these two files we have a fairly complete history of the organization, except for the initial founding year, 1980.

I approached this job with some apprehension but as I got into it, many fond memories were brought back, making it all worthwhile. I would like to enlist readers' help at this time: if you can fill in any of the blanks in the organization history for the first year or have particularly strong memories of organization events, please pass them on to our newsletter editor. Let's make the year 2000 millennium and WCFS's twentieth anniversary a time to complete our organization's history and relive many fond memories.

To start our organization history I have to pay tribute to Dr. Robert Norton. Bob started a tree fruit research program at the WSU Mt. Vernon Research and Extension Station about 1964. His efforts to evaluate and bring attention to tree fruit varieties that could be established successfully in the Puget Sound region and to educate growers in fruit production brought about a revival in growing tree fruit in Western Washington. I'm sure that it was his early efforts that stimulated the establishment of our organization.

Forming the Organization (the Early Years)

The first reference to forming an organization is contained in a resolution submitted by Bob Sestrap of Vashon Island to the WCTFA board of directors in a board meeting on July 21, 1984, published in the Summer 1984 WCTFA newsletter. The following statement is quoted from that resolution: "The nucleus of our organization was conceived at a field day at Wax Orchards (Vashon Island) 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." I have no records as to the sponsor or attendees at this Wax Orchard field day.

The first item in Ed Lewis' history file is a one page meeting notice issued by Marvin Jarmin, county Extension agent, Skagit County/WSU Cooperative Extension. The subject is Western Cascade Tree Fruit Meeting to be held at the Northwestern Washington Research & Extension Unit, Mt. Vernon on March 29, 1980, 9am to 4 pm.

The meeting notice states, "Purpose: This group is being founded for the purpose of bringing together people---commercial and amateur ---interested in all phases of tree fruits, culture, processing and

marketing. Special attention will be given to such areas as selection of varieties, rootstocks, high density planting, spray programs and cider. We also intend to disseminate information to the general public and to serve as a referral service among members."

The program included talks by Bob Sestrap, Dr. Robert Norton, Tom Perkins and Marvin Jarmin. There also was a one hour business meeting and a question and answer session. The registration fee was \$2 to be submitted by March 15, 1980 to Tom Perkins of Sedro Woolley. I could find no record of the business meeting nor whether officers and a board of directors were elected.

The second item in Ed Lewis' file is a newsletter titled WCTFA News, a newsletter of the Western Cascade Tree Fruit Asso., Fall 1980. From the return address on the newsletter I conclude the editor was Dr. Robert Thomas of Seattle. The newsletter included forms for ordering rootstocks and applying for WCTFA membership, to be mailed to Tom Perkins at Sedro Woolley. I conclude that Tom was acting as membership chairman and treasurer at this time.

The newsletter gave a list of coming events: orchard tour on September 20 to Tom Perkin's orchard and to the WSU Mt. Vernon research station. Also the "All About Fruit" exposition and WCTFA educational meeting on November 8 and 9 at the Seattle Center Flag Pavilion. The educational meeting was to feature speakers Jim Ballard, Extension horticulturist from Yakima, and Dr. Ralph Byther of the WSU Puyallup research station.

Unfortunately pages 3-6 are missing from the newsletter. From the table of contents on page 1 the missing pages contained a report of the board of directors meeting, an article by Dr. Robert Norton on Recommended Tree Fruit Varieties, and an article on Graft Your Own Trees. From this I conclude that a board of directors had been formed and they had a meeting prior to the postmark on the newsletter, September 9, 1980.

The third item in Ed's file is the Spring 1981 WCTFA newsletter. The editor again is Dr. Robert Thomas and now he is also listed as the recipient for membership applications. I conclude Dr. Thomas has taken over the membership chairman/treasurer job.

This newsletter announced a spring meeting scheduled for the WSU Mt. Vernon research station on March 21, 1981, with a program to include a panel discussion on growing and marketing tree fruits, moderator Robert Sestrap and panel members Tom Flick, Robert Fox, Curtis Moulton, Gary Moulton and Tom Thornton. The meeting's featured speaker was Dr. Robert L. Stebbins, OSU, on "Fruit Growing from A to Z on the Western Side of the Cascades." A business meeting to nominate and elect three members to the board of directors was also scheduled.

This newsletter included an announcement that really leaves me puzzled—a Willamette Valley Chapter of WCTFA was being formed! It was discussed at an apple producers meeting on February 7, 1981, organized by Ken Willmarth of the Small Family Farm Assistance Program of OSU Extension. The contact person for more information was Gary Rebholz,

Barnesdale Farm, Route 2, Box 826, Dayton, OR 97114. I could find no further information on this subject in subsequent WCTFA newsletters.

What puzzles me is that the Home Orchard Society (HOS) preceded WCTFA by five years, having been founded by Larry McGraw in 1975. Why would an Oregon group be considering WCTFA chapter affiliation rather than HOS? Do any of you HOS readers have an answer?

The next item of historical interest is a copy of the original articles of incorporation for WCTFA. These articles were submitted to the State of Washington Department of State on April 28, 1981. The registered agent and address for the association was Thomas F. Perkins at Sedro Woolley. These five were listed as the initial Board of Directors:

Thomas F. Perkins	816 Sims Road, Sedro Woolley, WA 98284
Robert Sestrap	Burton, WA 98013
James R. Anstis	420 92nd St, Everett, WA 98201
Dalbert Leaf	Rt 3, Box 128C, Port Townsend, WA 98368
Walter Lyon	19717 80th Ave NE, Bothell, WA 98011

These gentlemen signed the articles of incorporation on April 28, 1981. Ralph Monroe, secretary of state of the State of Washington, affixed the seal of the State and signed the articles on June 8, 1981.

For readers who are still with me, I apologize for all the detail, but I had to establish evidence for the following conclusion: WCTFA was founded on March 28, 1980. A board of directors consisting of Tom Perkins, Bob Sestrap, Jim Anstis, Dal Leaf and Walt Lyon governed the organization until April 18, 1981, and no elected officers existed during this time. I further conclude that Tom Perkins was probably the chairman of the board or possibly the acting president for this time.

The first evidence of elected officers is contained in the Summer 1981 WCTFA newsletter. It stated that at a board meeting at Tom Perkin's orchard on April 18, 1981, Walt Lyon of Bothell was elected president of the association. Gerald Pate of Port Townsend was elected vice president and Jim Anstis from Everett was elected secretary-treasurer. This newsletter also stated that Woody Deryckx, Lance Douglas, and Tom Thornton were elected to the board of directors at the March 21, 1981 spring meeting.

Bylaws for WCTFA were first published in the Summer 1982 WCTFA NEWS newsletter. There is no record identifying the original author(s) of this document. There is a penciled note by Ed Lewis that the bylaws were approved on April 24, 1983. There have been many revisions to these bylaws over the years.

Rather than proceeding any further with a chronological history I decided to assemble lists of officers, newsletter editors, board of director members, life members and fall fruit shows. These lists coupled with the following special interest subjects will hopefully give a feel for the organization and its history.

WCTFA/WCFS Presidents

NAME	RESIDENCE	TERM	
		START	FINISH
Unknown*	----	3-29-80	4-18-81
Walter Lyon	Bothell	4-18-81	5-22-82
Ed Lewis	Bellevue	5-22-82	7-21-84
Helen Zuelow	Kirkland	7-21-84	3-22-86
John Parker	Port Ludlow	3-22-86	3-03-90
Paul Donaldson	Seattle	3-03-90	3-06-93
Chuck Parkman	Carlsborg	3-06-93	3-04-95
Executive Board Joe Zeppa, Chair TK Panni Ron Schaevitz Evelyn Troughton Dick Tilbury	Seattle	3-04-95	6-17-95
Joe Zeppa	Seattle	6-17-95	3-07-98
Executive Board TK Panni, VP Chuck Holland, Sec. Joe Zeppa	Seattle	3-07-98	Oct.'98
Ed Jones	Puyallup	Oct.'98	current

* We have no record of officers at this time. Our best guess is the organization was run by a board of directors consisting of Tom Perkins, Robert Sestrap, James Anstis, Dalbert Leaf and Walter Lyon. Tom Perkins was perhaps chairman or possibly president(?)

WCTFA/WCFS Officers (other than President)

NAME	POSITION	TERM	
		START	FINISH
Gerald Pate	Vice President	4-18-81	4-24-82
Jim Anstis	Secretary/Treasurer	4-18-81	4-24-82
Linda Chase	Vice President	4-24-82	6-18-83
Joe Dupre	Secretary	4-24-82	7-21-84
Jim Anstis	Treasurer	4-24-82	6-18-83
Nancy Jo Cushman	Treasurer	6-18-83	7-21-84
Bob Norton	Vice President	7-21-84	3-22-86
Nancy Jo Cushman	Secretary	7-21-84	3-22-86
Tom Berry	Treasurer	7-21-84	3-22-86
John Davey	Vice President	3-22-86	3-07-92
Paul Donaldson	Secretary	3-22-86	3-03-90
Walt Lyon	Treasurer	3-22-86	3-03-90
Chuck Parkman	Treasurer	3-03-90	3-06-93
Dick Tilbury	Secretary	3-03-90	3-07-92
Orel Vallen	Vice President	3-07-92	3-04-95
Joe Zeppa	Recording Sec.	3-07-92	3-04-95
T K Panni	Corresponding Sec.	3-07-92	3-04-95
Ray Elder	Treasurer	3-06-93	3-05-94
Evelyn Troughton	Treasurer	3-05-94	Current
Chuck Holland	Secretary	6-17-95	3-06-99
T K Panni	Vice President	3-01-97	Current
Loretta Walker	Secretary	3-06-99	Current

Elected Members of WCTFA/WCFS Board of Directors

The following list of board members includes only those elected by the membership at large. In 1988 the board voted that chapter presidents, by virtue of their office, are automatically members of the board with full voting privileges; those names are not listed here.

Membership-elected board members generally serve a three year term. I have shown only the first election date for those members. To show each member's total length of service got too complicated; some resigned early, others served more than one term, and others moved into officer positions.

NAME	DATE OF 1ST ELECTION	NAME	DATE OF 1ST ELECTION
Jim Anstis	3-29-80	Chuck Parkman	3-03-90
Dalbert Leaf	"	Pat Stromberg	3-03-90
Walt Lyon	"	Mike Barnes	3-02-91
Tom Perkins	"	Ray Mathisen	"
Dob Sestrap	"	Ernie Mazzei	"
Woody Deryckx	3-21-81	Gil Schieber	"
Lance Douglas	"	Joe Zeppa	"
Tom Thornton	"	Lyle Knudson	3-07-92
Joe Dupre	4-24-82	Paul VanderHoek	"
Mrs. Marion Frost	"	Larry Barello	3-06-93
E. P. Kaiser	"	Steve Jackson	7-05-94
John Parker	"	Paul Hoyne	3-05-94
Lester Merritt	2-26-83	Chuck Holland	3-04-95
Robert Norton	"	T K Panni	"
Helen Zuelow	"	Orel Vallen	3-04-95
Nancy Jo Cushman	6-18-83	Sally Mussetter	8-05-95
Dave Battey	7-21-84	Eric Simpson	3-02-96
Ben LaLonde	"	David Snell	"
Walt Lyon	"	Harry Kirschner	3-01-97
Emory Leland	3-02-85	Lyle McKnight	"
Gene Lewis	3-22-86	Ben Van Deren	"
Dr Robert Bourdeau	3-28-87	Carmen Franco	3-07-98
Ed Lewis	4-09-88	George Moergeli	"
Pat Rothenberg	"	Don Stewart	"
Dick Tilbury	"	Larry Rucker	3-06-99
Bill Davis	3-12-89	Steve Witcher	"
John Davey	"	Sharon Nowicki	?_____?
Lyle Knudson	"		

WCIEA/WCFS Newsletter Editors

NEWSLETTER EDITORS	TERM START	FINISH	NEWSLETTER NAME
Dr. Robert Thomas	Sept. 1980 or earlier	April 1981	WCTFA News
Jim Anstis	April 1981	4-24-82	WCTFA News
Joe Dupre	4-24-82	7-21-84	WCTFA Newsletter
Nancy Jo Cushman	7-21-84	Spring 1989	WCTFA Newsletter*
Nancy Jo Cushman	Summer 1989	August 1990	WCFS Newsletter
Ed Lewis	August 1990	3-21-91	WCFS Newsletter
Dave Battey	3-21-91	3-01-94	WCFS Newsletter
Pete Kaiser	3-01-94	May 1994	WCFS Newsletter
Evelyn Troughton	May 1994	Spring 1994	WCFS Newsletter
Evelyn Troughton	Summer 1994	Current	The Bee Line

* The organization's name change from Western Cascade Tree Fruit Association to Western Cascade Fruit Society was approved at the March 12, 1989 board meeting following the annual spring meeting.

WCIEA/WCFS Life Members

The first mention of life memberships appears in the Spring 1985 newsletter. President Helen Zuelow wrote "We are discussing a proposed rewrite of the bylaws. Also honorary life memberships, ..." The bylaws were revised during the summer of 1986 to include life memberships in Article II; these revised bylaws were approved by the board on September 8, 1986 and approved by the membership at the spring meeting of March 28, 1987.

The following quote from the Winter 1986 newsletter contained the first reference I could find regarding life membership awards:

"LIFE MEMBERSHIPS: Board members nominated six WCTFA and chapter founders as candidates for life membership: Tom Perkins, Emory Leland, Dal Leaf, Gerald Pate, Dr. Robert Norton and Tom Thornton. Members will vote on these nominees at the spring meeting [note: all were approved at the 3-28-87 spring meeting].

"Life memberships were instituted by the board to honor members 'who have shown exceptional dedication, provided exceptional service to the association and have performed unusual services in promoting the goals of the association.' Walt Lyon, Bob Sestrap, John Parker, Jim Anstis and Ed Lewis were awarded life memberships last year." [note: at the 3-22-86 spring meeting].

This list contains all life members to date.

Date	Life Memberships
3-22-86	Jim Anstis, Ed Lewis, Walt Lyon, John Parker, Bob Sestrap
3-28-87	Dal Leaf, Emory Leland, Dr. Robert Norton, Gerald Pate, Tom Perkins, Tom Thornton
4-09-88	Nancy Jo Cushman, Helen Zuelow
3-07-92	Paul Donaldson, Dick & Marilyn Tilbury
3-06-93	Aaron Haynes, Norm Schut
3-05-94	Dave Battey
3-02-96	Lyle Knudson, Chuck Parkman, Orel Vallen
3-01-97	Marlene Falkenbury
3-07-98	Ed Jones, Ron Schaevitz, Evelyn Troughton, Joe Zeppa
3-06-99	Bill Davis, Leonard Jesson

Note: I can find no reference for life membership for Daphne Lewis. She was the Piper's Orchard chapter founder and should have been on the 3-28-87 list. Maybe Paul Donaldson can remember?

WCTFA/WCFS Fall Fruit Shows*

YR	DATE	LOCATION	SPONSORS	CULTIVARS DISPLAYED	ATTENDANCE
1980	Nov 8	Flag Pavilion	WSU, WCTFA,		3,500
	Nov 9	Seattle Center	Sunset Mag.		
1981	Oct 16	Northwest Rooms	WSU, WCTFA,		2,000
	Oct 18	Seattle Center**	Sunset Mag.		
1982	Oct 30	Jefferson Co. Fair-	NOFC, WCTFA,		736
	Oct 31	grounds, Pt. Townsend	***		
1983	Nov 5	Western Wash. Fair-	WSU, WCTFA		5,500
	Nov 6	grounds, Puyallup			
1984	Oct 13	Memorial Coliseum	HOS, OSU,	****	
	Oct 14	Portland, OR	WCTFA, WSU		
1985	Nov 2	Tacoma Dome	WSU, WCTFA	480	4,800
	Nov 3				
1986	Oct 25	Memorial Coliseum	HOS, OSU	****	
	Oct 26	Portland			
1987	Oct 31	Snohomish Co. Coop.	WSU, WCTFA	226	750
	Nov 1	Extension, Everett			
1988	Oct 29	Jefferson Co. Fair-	WSU, WCTFA	249	
	Oct 30	grounds, Pt. Townsend			
1989	Oct 21	Armory at Port Orchard	WCFS	278	
	Oct 22				

WCTFA/WCFS Fall Fruit Shows (Cont'd)

YR	DATE	LOCATION	SPONSORS	CULTIVARS	DISPLAYED	ATTENDANCE
1990	Nov 3	Center for Urban Hort.	WCFS	285	1,165	
	Nov 4	Univ. Wash., Seattle				
1991	Nov 9	Center for Urban Hort.	WCFS	218	1,240	
	Nov 10	Univ. Wash., Seattle				
1992	Oct 31	Kitsap Pavilion,	WCFS	333	950	
	Nov 1	Silverdale				
1993	Nov 6	Center for Urban Hort.	WCFS	276		
	Nov 7	Univ. Wash., Seattle				
1994	Nov 5	Edmonds Community	WCFS	356		
	Nov 6	College, Lynnwood				
1995	Oct 28	Edmonds Com. College	WCFS	251	701	
	Oct 29					
1996	Oct 27	Edmonds Com. College	WCFS	216	705	
	Oct 28					
1997	Oct 25	Edmonds Com. College	WCFS	230	632	
	Oct 26					
1998	Oct 17	Tukwila Community	WCFS	218	413	
	Oct 18	Center				
1999	Oct 30	Tukwila Community	WCFS	?	?	
	Oct 31	Center				

* Until about 1988 WCTFA used the title "All About Fruit Show." Starting in 1984 with the jointly sponsored show in Portland, this title was also used by Home Orchard Society (HOS). In 1988 HOS copywrote this name for their exclusive use. WCTFA then adopted the name "Fall Fruit Show."

** The American Pomological Society awarded this show the Marshall Pinckney Wilder certificate for most outstanding exhibit of fruit varieties. The award was presented to Dr. Robert Norton.

*** North Olympic Fruit Club chapter was formed just in the spring of 1982. The show was chaired by John Parker.

**** Winnifred Fisher of HOS compiled the inventory of fruit displayed in both 1984 and 1986. The totals were ??

Organization Name Derivation and Change

We have found no records as to the derivation of our organization's initial name, Western Cascade Tree Fruit Association (WCTFA). It was undoubtedly adopted by the initial board of directors sometime between the founding meeting of March 29, 1980 and September 9, 1980 which is the postmark date of the first newsletter in our file. This newsletter is titled "WCTFA NEWS--newsletter of the Western Cascade Tree Fruit Assoc."

Unfortunately this first newsletter from Ed Lewis' file contains only pages 1, 2 and 7. Pages 3-6 are missing and the table of contents on page 1 indicates that page 3 contains a report of the board of directors meeting.

The initial name stayed with our organization until the following rumblings of discontent appeared in the winter 1988 newsletter: "NAME CHANGE--We're still dithering around with a name change for Western Cascade Tree Fruit Association. You do have to admit it's rather a mouthful. We would like the new name to be shorter and to emphasize the amateur status of most of our members now. We're not kicking out our commercial members, after all they were instrumental in starting WCTFA, but because of our non profit status we cannot get involved in any commercial concerns.

"The board has come up with several names and would like the membership to indicate a preference. Please fill out and mail the ballot on the back page. There's also a place to add your own suggestions if you're inclined. We would like to hear from as many members as possible fairly soon, so the name change could be voted on at the spring meeting. Be sure to read Max Meyers' article on suggested names, too." The ballot referred to is below:

NAME CHANGE SUGGESTIONS

_____ Home Fruit Society	_____ All About Fruit Club
_____ Home Fruit Growers	_____ Puget Tree Fruit Growers
_____ Family Fruit Growers	_____ Garden Fruit Growers

"A NEW NAME FOR OUR ORGANIZATION by Max Meyers

"There has been some talk about changing the name of our organization. I hope to stimulate some interest among our membership.

"Both the Home Orchard Society name and ours have limitations within the name itself. Western Cascade limits us to an area. The words 'Tree' and 'Orchard' limit the kinds of fruit we cover. We have members in our chapters that raise kiwis, grapes, blueberries, strawberries and much more. None of the above can be described as a tree or as an orchard. I believe these words should be eliminated from our name. We need to make welcome all types of fruit growers and make it known by our name.

"Most of our members are hobbyists or amateurs. This can be used in the name. Amateur would limit us by making professionals not welcome. If we use the word 'Home' as Home Orchard Society has, we have not eliminated the professionals. Many professionals have home orchards. There is one other consideration I believe we need to address which does not fall into the fruit category but does fall into the orchard category. That is the 'nut.' This could be included in our name.

"Now let's look at what we have. Examples are:

- The Amateur Fruit Society
- The Fruit Hobbyists Society
- The Fruit and Nut Society
- The Home Fruit and Nut Society
- The Home Fruit and Nut Association
- The Home Fruit and Nut Club

"With a name such as above, we could include any group in the country, and with a little paperwork we could set up chapters anywhere. I hope I have stimulated a little interest and hope to hear more about this subject from others."

And from the Spring 1989 newsletter:

"NAME CHANGE--an ad hoc group of board members submits the following three names as appropriate for our group:

- Puget Fruit Growers
- Northwest Fruit Growers
- Puget Sound Fruit Growers

"We're still looking for input from the membership, so let us know what your opinion is. Many of us liked 'Home Fruit Growers,' but finally decided the word 'home' was too limiting since many of our members have extensive orchards and could be considered experts, not amateurs. 'Orchard' was rejected since we wanted to include berries, grapes and kiwis; 'nuts' was not under consideration, although it's included in our interests; 'society' and 'club' were rejected as being too frivolous."

The final resolution was reported in the summer 1990 newsletter: "Secretary's Report: Paul Donaldson reviewed the history of our organization's name change. At the 1989 spring meeting 'Fruit Growers of Puget Sound' was endorsed along with a motion to table the name change to the board meeting following. The board subsequently proposed 'Western Cascade Fruit Society' in order to preserve part of the original name identity. Organization bylaw changes reflecting a name change from 'Western Cascade Tree Fruit Association' to 'Western Cascade Fruit Society' were approved by a unanimous voice vote of those present."

Nonprofit Status for WCFS

The original articles of incorporation for WCTFA contained the following: "The undersigned, Thomas F. Perkins, Robert Sestrap, James R. Anstis, Dalbert Leaf and Walter Lyon for the purpose of forming a corporation under the non profit laws, RCW 24.03, of the State of Washington, state: . . ."

The board became concerned that no application for nonprofit status had been filed with the IRS. This from the Fall 1985 newsletter:

"Technical Help Needed--WCTFA must secure nonprofit status with the IRS. We need an accountant or lawyer familiar with such procedures to help us travel the labyrinth of IRS red tape. WCTFA cannot continue to grow until we have completed the necessary formality."

This request remained open until June 1989 when board member Dick Tilbury submitted a proposal to hire Sandy Deja of Exemption Advisory Services to assist in making exemption application to the IRS. Sandy had 14 years experience working in the IRS exempt status area and the Tilburys had taken a community education course titled "How to Get/Keep IRS Exempt Status" from her in September 1988. The board approved the proposal on November 6, 1989.

It was also decided to apply for group exemption status for all chapters. After gathering organization records from each chapter and getting their authorization to be included in the group application, treasurer Walt Lyon and Dick Tilbury met with Sandy Deja on February 12, 1990 to turn applicable WCFS and chapter records over to her and contract for her advisory services. The Tilburys worked with Sandy to coordinate necessary articles of incorporation, WCFS and chapter bylaw changes, getting employee identification numbers (EIN) for WCFS and all chapters and preparing the application.

The IRS form 1023, application for recognition of exemption, along with a letter requesting group exemption was submitted to the IRS on March 26, 1990. An IRS letter dated May 11, 1990 granted 501(c)(3) tax exempt status to WCFS.

Unfortunately the application for chapter group exemption was transferred to an IRS group ruling specialist for further action. This triggered a round of changes to chapter bylaws, much correspondence to the IRS including the specialist's claim that he had not received some of it. Resubmittal with return receipt requested finally cleared the log jam and we received an IRS letter dated July 19, 1991 granting group exemption for all chapters, a two year endeavor.

WCTES/WCFS Chapter History

The following history of WCTFA/WCFS chapters will be brief and somewhat sketchy. I would encourage each chapter to expand on this and provide more information to Evelyn for publication during our year 2000 20th anniversary.

North Olympic Fruit Club (NOFC) Chapter

John Parker founded this club in early 1982 and during an April 24, 1982 WCTFA board meeting expressed interest in having it become a chapter of WCTFA. NOFC was approved as the first WCTFA chapter in a board meeting on May 22, 1982. WCTFA bylaws were subsequently amended to reflect chapter additions and to split membership dues between WCTFA and the chapters.

The first officers in the NOFC chapter were: John Parker, president; Pete Kaiser, vice president; Ben Lalonde, treasurer; and Susan Rowe, secretary. This chapter continues to be very active. The current president is Eric Simpson.

Piper's Orchard Chapter

Daphne Lewis' (no relation to Ed Lewis) spearheaded the effort to restore the old Piper's homestead orchard in Carkeek Park, Seattle, conducting the initial planning workshop on September 29, 1983. She attracted a number of WCTFA members to this cause and in 1985 they decided to affiliate with WCTFA by forming a new chapter. An organization meeting was held on February 27, 1985.

As stated in the spring 1985 WCTFA newsletter "The primary reason for forming this new chapter will be to adopt the Piper Orchard as part of the Seattle Park Department's Adopt-A-Park program. Many WCTFA members have already been involved in the work parties that have re-claimed the old orchard from the blackberries and alder." Ron Schaevitz is the current president of this active chapter.

Seattle Tree Fruit Society (STFS) Chapter

This is from the spring 1985 WCTFA newsletter with my comments in brackets: "Emory Leland, WCTFA member and Seattle gardener [actually a WSU Master Gardener] has been wanting information on fruit growing which he can use in his small urban garden. Not one to wait for others to do the work, he began spreading the word last year, inviting other interested city people to join him in forming a WCTFA chapter. They met for the first time on January 26 [1985] with 44 urban fruit growers attending. Sixteen people became new paid members of WCTFA on the spot and several renewed memberships.

"Everyone participated in the introductions with high spirits. Some fascinating facts were offered. One couple lives on a large lot in Ballard which has some huge, historic Gravenstein trees and the original Jannes apricot tree. Another person lives in the University District in the midst of an old orchard which still persists even though the trees linger as monuments throughout many small yards. In fact each person attending had interesting reasons for seeking information on fruit growing.

"The Seattle-urban chapter selected a temporary board and agreed to meet on the last Saturday morning of each month. Contact Emory Leland or Helen Zuelow for more information."

The first volunteer officers in this chapter were Emory Leland, → president; Allan Orr, vice president; Jack Shilvock, treasurer; and M.A. "Tony" Manson, secretary. Marlene Falkenbury is the current president of this chapter.

San Juan Island Chapter

This chapter was formed in 1987 by Kristan Johnson. This notice is from the Summer 1987 WCTFA newsletter: "Two new chapters have been formed in western Washington---one in the San Juan Islands, the other in Kitsap County. The San Juan 'Island Chapter' meets the second Saturday of each month with special inter-island meetings on

the second month of each season. Potential projects for the chapter include researching earlier fruit production on the islands, surveying current fruit production and through scionwood and rootstock sales increasing quality fruit on the islands. For more information contact Kristan Johnson, East Sound."

As I recall this chapter functioned until 1992 when it was disbanded.

Peninsula Fruit Club Chapter

This chapter was formed in 1987 by Don McDonald. This notice is from the summer 1987 WCTFA newsletter: "The 'Kitsap Chapter' meets the second Thursday of each month at the Kitsap County Agricultural Extension Building in Port Orchard. Members are interested in any kind of fruit raising and they have already had talks on grafting, chip budding, T budding, stooling and growing raspberries and blackberries. One upcoming meeting will be to a member's house to sample 25 varieties of blueberries. For more information contact Don McDonald."

Scott Thomson is the current president of this active chapter.

Tahoma Chapter

This chapter was formed in 1988. This notice is from the summer 1988 WCTFA newsletter: "The newest WCTFA chapter is the Tahoma Chapter, which is meeting monthly at the Washington State University Extension Research Station in Puyallup. If you're interested in joining, contact president Rob Kuper or secretary Betty Kinnaman."

Carmen Franco is the current president of this growing chapter.

South Puget Sound Chapter

This chapter was formed in January 1989. This notice is from the winter 1988 WCTFA newsletter: "The South Puget Sound Chapter of WCTFA will have an organizational meeting in late January in Olympia. Plans are to have a scionwood exchange, local tours and a mini fruit show in the fall.

"Fruit enthusiasts from Lewis, Thurston, Mason and Grays Harbor counties are invited to join this local chapter. If you have not received information about the organizational meeting by the first week of January, contact James Stephenson, Olympia."

As I recall this chapter functioned until 1998 when it was disbanded.

HISTORICAL RAMBLINGS by Dick Tilbury

Researching for this WCTFA/WCFS history developed some strong impressions and remembrances. I would like to share a few.

Mr. WCFS

In my opinion Walter Lyon is the most deserving member for this title. Walt was one of the first five members comprising the initial board of directors. He was the first elected president of our organization, holding that position from April 18, 1981 until May 22, 1982. He served again on the board from July 21, 1984 until March 3, 1990. He also was treasurer from March 22, 1986 until March 3, 1990.

What I most remember Walt for is the tours of his orchard and his amazing collection of fruit varieties. And who could forget all his years of coordinating the rootstock sale for the annual spring meetings and his wonderful display of apples and pears for tasting at the Fall Fruit Shows. To see Walt and Hazel arrive at the Fall Fruit Show site with their little pickup truck tightly packed with boxes of fruit all neatly cataloged and labeled was a joy, and then to see the resultant tasting table with all of Walt's fruit beautifully displayed was like a miracle.

Sadly I have to report that due to health problems Walt has been moved to New Mexico to be near his daughter. I don't know what is planned for his Bothell property and that magnificent collection of fruit trees.

The Second WCTFA President

In examining Ed Lewis' WCTFA file I saw a penciled note on his Fall 1980 WCTFA newsletter that he had mailed in his \$10 dues on October 20, 1980. Ed got aboard early, although I suspect he may have been a member of HOS before that. Ed was a real action type and it appears he became actively involved in WCTFA right away.

The Summer 1982 WCTFA newsletter in Ed's file reports on an April 24, 1982 board meeting to elect new officers. Dal Leaf was nominated to replace Walt Lyon as president but he declined. Walt then called an emergency board meeting for May 22, 1982. It appears that Ed was the only non officer/board member to attend this meeting and he was elected president. (Ed must have indicated his willingness to serve prior to the emergency board meeting.)

Ed was president from May 22, 1982 until July 21, 1984. From Ed's notes it appears he was a very active president, even writing many of the newsletter articles. Here is part of Ed's president's message in the Summer 1982 WCTFA newsletter: "I didn't expect to be Chairman of the Board so soon, but since I have accepted the responsibility I intend to give the job my best and with your help we will continue to have an active, participating membership."

Ed was among the initial group of five to be awarded life membership in WCTFA. He was again elected to the board of directors on April 9, 1988 and served as the newsletter editor from August 1990 until March 21, 1991. Ed was also actively involved from the early days in the Piper's Orchard Chapter. He truly gave his best in support of WCTFA/WCFS.

Ed was keenly interested in using orchard mason bees as pollinators. He was the first person I can remember to put out nests for them. I remember all the nesting blocks, and cans and milk cartons filled with straws lining his south-facing deck at his home. He was also the first person to detect apple maggot infestation on the eastside.

They Really Don't Make 'Em Like John Anymore

This quote is from newsletter editor Nancy Jo Cushman in the Winter 1988 WCTFA newsletter: "My apologies for the late appearance of this newsletter. Old age is creeping up on me and I have had back problems for the last month. I do realize that John Parker managed to organize a fruit show, have a gall bladder operation and attend the next board meeting two weeks later. But they really don't make 'em like John anymore."

John Parker was truly an outstanding figure in this organization. He founded the North Olympic Fruit Club (NOFC) in 1982 and was elected to the WCTFA board on April 24, 1982. He told the board about his plans for NOFC and expressed his interest in having it become a chapter of WCTFA. The board approved NOFC as the first chapter of WCTFA in a meeting on May 22, 1982.

WCTFA bylaws were subsequently amended to reflect chapter additions and membership dues split between WCTFA and chapters. John and his new chapter sponsored our third Fall Fruit Show on October 30-31, 1982 at the Jefferson County fairgrounds, Port Townsend. John served on the board until March 22, 1986 when he was elected president of WCTFA. He served in this capacity until March 3, 1990.

As for John's sense of humor, I offer the following by editor Dave Battey from the Fall 1992 WCFS newsletter: "Editor's message (and apology to Gerald Pate). Your editor received the following charming and edifying letter from WCFS Life Member, past president and current president of our North Olympic Chapter, John Parker. His letter was in response to my listing all WCFS Life Members in the last newsletter, and noting Gerald Pate as 'deceased.'"

"9-21-92

Dear Dave,

I received the very fine newsletter and read with a great deal of sadness the passing of Gerald Pate.

Because I had a conversation with him a short time ago, I phoned him to ask if it was true but he said it was not true, that he was very much alive and well--but you know I never did believe him so I asked to talk to his wife, Maxine, so she asked him if he had died and she got the same answer. Now, she is truthful.

Did you misprint and mean dissaged? Thinking that this is what happened I am sending him a 'get well' card.

Are people who are, in fact, deceased allowed to attend the (Fall Fruit Show) exhibit free? It would be a nice gesture.

Best and warmest regards,

/s/ John Parker

PS I am still alive (I think) but I feverishly scan the obituary column every day to be sure."

I have many fond memories of John. I served on the board during the last two years of John's WCTFA presidency and really discovered the importance of Robert's Rules of Order in conducting business meetings. John is a stickler for this. I also remember his expertise in identifying apple varieties, all put to good use at our fall fruit shows.

One of my strong memories is how much I enjoyed the September 24-26, 1986 WCTFA bus tour to British Columbia to visit the Summerland fruit research station. John is a retired Greyhound bus driver and took care of all the details, planning the tour and conducting it.

To see the Parker home at Port Ludlow with all of John's fruit trees set off by Frieda's plot of over 2000 dahlias is truly a joy. I have to agree with Nancy Jo, they really don't make 'em like John anymore.

The Women of WCTFA/WCFS

Women have always played a very important role in this organization and I would like to mention a few.

Daphne Lewis spearheaded the effort to restore the old Piper's Homestead Orchard in Carkeek Park, Seattle. She conducted the initial planning workshop on September 29, 1983. This resulted in the 1985 Piper's Orchard Chapter addition to WCTFA. Just look at the following list of people she was able to enlist for this worthy effort early on: Dave Battey, John Davey, Paul Donaldson, Ed Lewis, Walt Lyon, Ron and Lee Schaevitz, Gil Schieber.

Helen Zuelow was an instructor in the horticulture department of Edmonds Community College when she joined WCTFA in 1982. She quickly became very active and planned and organized tours for WCTFA. She was elected to the board on February 26, 1983 and was later elected president on July 21, 1984. She served in this capacity until March 22, 1986.

Nancy Jo Cushman had her own extensive fruit tree orchard near Marysville and was the WSU Master Gardener coordinator for Snohomish County. She was first elected to the board on June 18, 1983. She held the treasurer position from that point until July 21, 1984 when she moved to the job of WCTFA secretary. She also took on the job of newsletter editor at this point. She continued as secretary until March 22, 1986 and continued as newsletter editor until August 1990.

With her WSU contacts Nancy was a whiz at getting meeting speakers and arranging orchard tours. All through the early years of WCTFA, fall orchard tours were a big event. Sadly after Nancy's retirement, orchard tours dropped from the WCFS agenda and were left up to individual chapters.

Pat Rothenberg and her husband Dick were enthusiastic members of the Peninsula Fruit Club chapter and Pat served as president of that chapter. Pat was elected to the WCTFA board of directors on April 9, 1988. She and her husband were real pioneers in orchard mason bee propagation and later in (alas) apple maggot fly trapping.

Marlene Falkenbury was one of the founding members of the Seattle Tree Fruit Society chapter. The first meeting was held in her home. She has been president of that chapter since September 1989 and in this role has served on the WCFS board to the present time.

Evelyn Troughton--Talk about workhorses, this lady really fills the bill. She became WCFS treasurer on March 5, 1994 and still holds that position. She also became our newsletter editor in May 1994 and still holds that position. She is performing the two most time consuming jobs in our organization plus many duties with the Seattle Opera Guild. I don't know how she does it!

Marilyn Tilbury---I can't forget my wife's role in supporting this organization. She was active in supporting the Seattle Tree Fruit Society chapter from the start. She assisted president Emory Leland with the early newsletters and acted as membership chair for that chapter until October 1999. She was also my partner in the two year endeavor to obtain IRS nonprofit 501(c)(3) status for WCFS and its chapters.

The Historian

WCFS member Dave Battey is the person I have in mind here. Dave was active in the early days of the Piper's Orchard chapter and was first elected to the WCTFA board on July 21, 1984. He also served as WCFS newsletter editor from March 21, 1991 until March 1, 1994. What I most remember about Dave is all the historical fruit articles he has written which were published in our newsletter.

By the way, I think Dave is still WCFS historian (so why did Evelyn talk me into attempting this 20 year summary?). I particularly like Dave's writing and have asked Evelyn to include a couple of his articles as part of this newsletter. Dave has also inventoried and compiled lists of all fruit varieties displayed at our fall fruit shows starting with the 1985 show.

Talk about getting aboard the computer age early, I offer the following message from Dave which appeared in the Fall 1991 WCFS newsletter:

"Editor's Message

This is the first newsletter to be mailed using mailing labels created from my IBM clone computer using PC-File software. This will give WCFS a standard platform for the future, and allow me to retire my Tandy Color Computer, first purchased in November of

1979. My son Bret and I first computerized WCTFA (now WCFS) labels in September of 1984, using a cassette tape storage system. The WCTFA Board of Directors back then were Tom Berry, Linda Chace, Nancy Jo Cushman, Pete Kaiser, Ben LaLonde, Ed Lewis, Les Merritt, Dr. Bob Norton, John Parker and Helen Zuelow. We had 222 members and one chapter, the North Olympic Fruit Club. Prior to computerization, Nancy Jo was keeping the membership list typed on sheets that could be photocopied onto stickybacked labels. We've come a long way since then.

/s/ Dave Battey WCFS Newsletter Editor, Snoqualmie"

A. WCTFA Oversight?

The Summer 1981 WCTFA newsletter contained an announcement of a September 12 WCTFA orchard tour organized by Bob Sestrap. The tour was to some orchards in the Puyallup-Summer area. One of the orchards was described as follows:

"The tour will end at the C. D. Schwartz orchard on Tacoma Road. Dr. Schwartz was responsible for many of our successful varieties of fruits and berries, before retiring from years on the staff of the WSU Puyallup Research Station as Horticulturist. He has continued experimenting at his home, where a multitude of fruits can be observed and compared."

This triggered my memory. Marilyn and I visited Chet Schwartz in March 1976 and purchased our first fruit trees from him. He talked us into Jonagold, Summerred, Melrose and Jonamac apple trees on M26 rootstock. He gave us a Whitney crab, saying it needed a good home. We still have those five trees in our collection.

Now for the oversight. Why didn't WCTFA honor this great pioneer in fruit research at his death? If something was published in our newsletter, I missed it. To fill this void I would like to quote the following from his obituary that appeared in the October 13, 1988 Seattle Times:

"Chester D. Schwartz, who bred some of the most popular and profitable strains of Northwest berries, died Saturday of cancer in his Puyallup Valley home. He was 86.

"The nationally prominent horticulturist is credited with developing six different varieties of red raspberries and nine varieties of strawberries.

"Schwartz also was noted for his success in breeding tree fruits and grapes and for helping to develop strains of fruit that could be used successfully by the frozen-food industry.

"By the early 1970s, most Northwest strawberry acreage in the region was planted with strains developed by Schwartz, accounting for at least \$200 million in business.

"Schwartz was a member of the Washington State University faculty for 37 years and wrote more than 125 publications on fruit culture and disease.

"He helped to organize the Western Washington Horticulture Association and the Pacific Northwest Blueberry Growers Association. He continued hybridizing strawberries after his retirement in 1969 and in 1976 he was presented with the Wilder Medal of the American Pomologist Society for his research.

"Schwartz was born in Yakima in 1902, the grandson of a pioneer Yakima valley orchardist. He received a doctorate from Washington State University."

In Summary

Has some of this triggered your memory? Did you spot some errors? Who or what did I leave out? Please jot down your recollections of WCTFA/WCFS activities now while you're thinking of them and forward to Evelyn Troughton for publication in the Bee Line during this, our 20th year.

I have also asked Evelyn to include a letter from Tom and Susan Berry that was published in the Fall 1983 WCTFA newsletter. Tom Berry was on the WCTFA board and was treasurer from July 21, 1984 until March 22, 1986. To me their letter sums up what it's all about and also shows the influence of Dr. Robert Norton in rekindling interest in growing tree fruit in Western Washington.

WANTED TO BORROW, just long enough to copy:

WCTFA newsletters for 1980--Spring, Summer and Fall

" " " 1981--Fall

" " " 1982--Fall

If you have any of these, please contact Evelyn Troughton. The object is to have a complete set of newsletters in the WCFS archives.