

Thinned & Draped Pomes @ STFS Demo Orchard June '21



Please

Don't feed
larvae of
codling
moth &
apple
maggot

the Urban Scion Post

a publication of the Seattle Tree Fruit Society,
a chapter of the Western Cascade Fruit Society

A Message from the President

We had a real decent turnout for the May 15th zoom presentation by Ann Ralph: *Grow a Little Fruit Tree: Simple Pruning Techniques for Small-Space, Easy-Harvest Fruit Trees*. Included in the audience were several members of other clubs, as well as some non-members, a few of which said they would be joining our club.

Two weeks ago, Bob Baines and I attended a meeting of the Board of the Magnuson Community Garden Board of Directors. This group oversees the Magnuson P-Patch, Children's Garden and the Demonstration Orchard that STFS manages. A big thanks to Bob for stepping up and offering his expertise garnered from his years as a senior staff member of the Seattle Parks Department, as well as his leadership of the Western Washington Fruit Research Foundation. We discussed future potential collaborations with the other Magnuson groups. We are hoping to meet with Parks Dept. staff soon to discuss possible additions and updates to the Demonstration Orchard. And, along with Children's Garden staff, we have a few dates set to move wood chips into the orchard. If you are able to help out at any of the following dates/times, please contact me (mikewan@aol.com): Tuesday (6/29) 9:00 - 12:00; Friday (7/9) 9:00 - 1:00; Tuesday (7/13) 9:00 - 12:00; Tuesday (7/20) 9:00 - 12:00; Saturday (7/24) 10:00 - 2:00; and Tuesday (7/27) 9:00 - 12:00.

So.....a Sawfly update: As mentioned last month, upon vigilant monitoring of susceptible (in the past) plants (mainly a large Jostaberry) I noticed my first currant sawfly (or was it a "gooseberry sawfly?") on a plant that I hadn't monitored - an "Orus 8" (Gooseberry X Black Currant). By the time I noticed this, the plant was probably already 80% defoliated. This sent me into a frenzy of "larvae squishing" on any Ribes specimens that had a sign of these pests. I knew, from experience, that a plant could be totally defoliated in a few days, if the number of hatched larvae were sufficient. I then monitored my Ribes morning and night, and would still be surprised, on occasion, by a leaf that I had not noticed as harboring these pests, until it was, all of a sudden, half eaten, with (up to eleven) larvae outlining the perimeter of the remainder of the leaf. These guys act fast. I was successful in thwarting most of these invasions. At least one of my plants (the aforementioned Orus 8) was totally defoliated. But it is now sending up new, strong, shoots. So, it will get another chance next year.

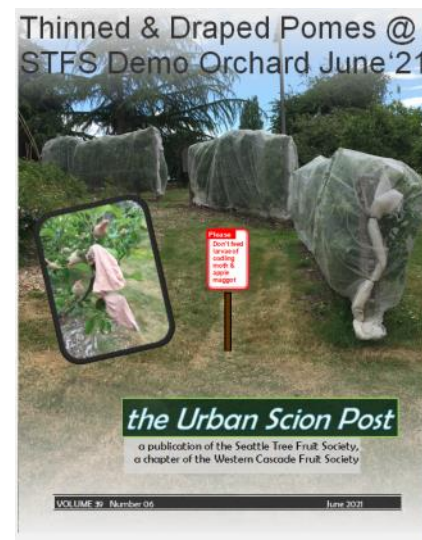
Why am I writing this? Well, I just wanted to point out my own shortcomings about fruit culture. (And we can all benefit from my confession). With a bit of proper planning, my task would be much easier. I decided to study, in great detail, the life cycle of the sawfly. I learned that there are actually three species that wreck havoc on Ribes crops: *Nematus ribesii* (imported currant worm/common gooseberry sawfly), *Nematus leucotrochus* (pale-spotted gooseberry sawfly), and *Pristiphora appendiculata* (small gooseberry sawfly/green currant worm). The three species behave similarly. The adults lay their eggs on the underside of Ribes leaves (mainly gooseberries, gooseberry crosses, and red & white currants....other currants don't seem to be affected). The eggs hatch, and the larvae start eating the leaves. After a short period, the larvae (when they are "plump") fall to the ground, and pupate on the soil surface, or slightly below it. The adults hatch in the spring, just as the leaves are forming, and the cycle starts again. If chickens were allowed among these plants, they would eat the pupae. But, I don't have chickens at the moment. What I could have done, as I now know, is to disturb the ground slightly around the plants during the winter months, thus exposing the pupae to the elements and (hungry) predators. I'll do that this winter. We'll see how I fare. Hope to see everyone soon.

Regards, Mike Ewanciw

Urban Scion Post

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On the cover

Photo of pear and 2 apple espaliers @ STFS demo orchard. Inset of individual covered fruitlets. All summer pruning, fruitlet thinning and covering done by STFS volunteers. Photo taken 6/5/21.

2021-06

June Gloom?

by Marilyn Tilbury

March, April and May were all dry. Will we be able to escape June Gloom? The European weather gods are predicting a damp month for us. A lot of forest managers are hoping that plays out. They're looking at fuel moisture content, FMC, which indicates potential record wildfire risk this summer and fall.

Whether we get more rain this month or not, soil moisture now is important. Our fruit trees are rapidly expanding new fruit while also setting up next year's flower buds. June bearing strawberries, raspberries and blackberries are quickly bringing fruit to maturity. Perhaps it's time to get out the hoses.

How did your mason bees do this year? Some folks are reporting a very good return while a few are reporting no return at all. If any holes were filled, now is the time to remove nest blocks from shelters and store them away from wasp and fly parasites, such as on top of a bookcase. Store nest blocks hole side up so that the developing larvae can access their pollen ball food supply.

The wonderful weather over Memorial Day weekend was a gift to codling moths—warm evenings, little wind, dry weather. Even a few minutes meeting these conditions are sufficient for CM flight. If that weren't enough, the first week of June is Apple Maggot Barrier Week. This year we're all on the steep part of the learning curve as we try the new larger maggot barriers.

To help convince yourself that AM, *Rhagoletis pomonella*, will be a problem, buy a couple Red Delicious apples, hang them with cheap coat hanger wire and coat with brush-on Tangletrap. The odor emitted from this particular cultivar is very attractive to AM, and the apple can hang for a couple weeks before rotting. Look for picture wing flies. The pattern on the wing is a stylized letter F which is visible to the naked eye.

See Trent's article and pictures of both these apple pests on page 7 of the May *Urban Scion Post*.

So far, getting trees thinned and protected by MBs at the beginning of June yields nearly pest free fruit. As climate changes, we'll probably find ourselves doing this by the last week of May.

Did you watch our May Zoom meeting? The delightful author Ann Ralph (Grow a Little Fruit Tree) talked about her training system to maintain a pedestrian orchard. The Spaniards are already using a similar technique in their commercial cherry orchards, pruning new trees low to develop as a large bush.

For this system we need to start in February or March with new trees. One of the two principal pruning times for Ann's technique is the summer solstice, coming right up. Perhaps more of us will convert to this no-ladder system. It would make it so much easier

to protect our harvests from the ever increasing numbers of insect and vertebrate sharecroppers by installing barriers such as the bee netting used by City Fruit.

Will Covid-19 recede into just a very bad memory? New, more transmissible strains may emerge but hopefully our vaccinated population will keep new infections low.

Editor's note: Demise of Aplets/Cotlets posted earlier by news outlets may have been premature. As of June 7th, Liberty Orchards website (libertyorchards.com) reports: "We had planned to close on June 1st, but we are pleased to announce that the

company is currently negotiating with a prospective buyer. We will remain open and continue all normal operations until negotiations are concluded. Thank you for your support and concern." Backstory of company and products is interesting read at company's website above. Aplets are "an apple and walnut confection based on locuom," Is "locuom" another word for "lokum" a Turkish delight used by C.S Lewis's White Witch to tempt Edmund Pevensie? Challenge to STFS membership: Your lokum recipe for future Urban Scion Post newsletter.





Summer Pruning Pomes

By Trent Elwing

***It's Time to Prune Again.
It's Time to Prune Again?
It's Time to Prune Again.***

Yes, even a freckled dummy would agree; summer pruning of pome trees is a necessary duty. How-to runs the gamut from DIY with your own cutting tools and maybe even a ladder to finding and/or contracting a trustworthy competent individual with fruit tree care experience.

Generally, summer pome pruning in the PNW occurs between June 1st and September 30th after leaf sizing up but before leaf drop. During her 5/15/21 zoom presentation to STFS members, Ann Ralph who lives in Sacramento, CA commented that she tries to have summer pruning activities finished by the summer solstice. This schedule might not apply to the PNW due to our maritime climate and later arrival of seasonal weather.

From Ann Ralph's talk back on May 15th, my notes include the advice that "worst mistake is doing no pruning" which is a philosophy followed and preached by other experienced fruit orchardists. That said, other resources point out that pruning is a stressful event. The introductory paragraph of WSU Extension Pub. FS182E ([fs182e.pdf \(wsu.edu\)](https://fs182e.pdf.wsu.edu)) or (<http://pubs.cahnrs.wsu.edu/publications/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/publications/fs182e.pdf>) reads

in part: "Pruning is the intentional wounding of a plant, and yet it is also a tool that can help cultivate a healthy, beautiful tree or shrub. Thus, pruning should be performed only when necessary and always according to an established plan. Doing so will minimize the short-term harm and maximize the long-term benefit to the plant."

One perspective is the wounded plant's, and another is yours. From your perspective, pruning only when necessary means less time spent pruning than if you prune just for the sake of pruning. The plant probably would agree with a strategic pruning philosophy.

Most of my pome trees were planted less than two years so thankfully, I have another season or two before summer pruning becomes integral to my orchard management plan... Thankfully ... because I have yet to establish a plan to optimize fruitfulness. Hobbies requiring a management plan sound more like work than leisure.





Based on photos of neglected fruit trees gone wild and pruning questions emailed to the STFS gmail account, Mother Nature shows no mercy for the unprepared backyard orchardist. Writing down and following an orchard management plan may lessen the chance of fruit trees quickly growing out to heights, dimensions and densities making catchup challenging and limiting consistent crops of quality fruit. Management plan pruning goals might include absolute rules like: 1) no ladders will be used for any activity in my backyard orchard. And 2) no fruit plant will be allowed to grow higher than 10 feet above the ground in my backyard orchard.

A backyard orchard management plan could also include a list of periodic maintenance tasks along with the division of labor. Tasks might be completed entirely in-house by yourself or exclusively by hired help or a combination of column A and column B. See Tracey's article below covering how to hire outside help. If hired help is contracted, for your and their benefit, you should have a management plan establishing your expectations of their work. For example, no pome tree height greater than 10 feet.

If you haven't summer pruned pomes recently, an online video covering the basics might help you decide whether you're up for the task or want some help.

The WCFS website (www.wcfs.org) like STFS's is cluttered with broken links needing to be removed or reconnected.

One useful, active link on summer pome pruning ([WCFS Summer Pruning of Apple Trees \(Tahoma Chapter\)](#)) is available under the "resources" tab below the script "BeeLine" in the "fruit growing video" grouping. This video was created by the Tahoma chapter with summer pome pruning techniques demonstrated by Robert Sweet, ISA Certified Arborist, Pierce County Master Gardener, Plant Scientist. On the same WCFS webpage is a link to another video ([WCFS Revitalizing Old Fruit Trees Part One: Pruning \(Tahoma\)](#)) in which Robert Sweet shows how to rejuvenate a neglected overgrown apple tree. Keep that second video in mind when planning for winter pruning a mature apple tree before leaf out next spring.

Summer pruning apple trees URL:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3FYjQc6HGxU>

Revitalizing mature apple tree URL:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0cyGK5M17D4>

Reiterating several points made by Robert Sweet: Summer prune only well-established, healthy, non-stressed pome trees that have 3-4 years of vigorous growth already while in the ground. Younger pome trees may have broken limbs or diseased parts that need to be removed during the summer months; for these younger trees, limit summer pruning to these sanitation cuts.

Quick review of why pome trees are summer pruned:

1. Height control.
2. Sanitation (removal of diseased/broken sections of tree).
3. Improve fruitful wood quality, quantity and placement by:
 - Thinning to restore fruitfulness back to barren portions of canopy.
 - Removing overextended fruitfulness on undersized branches.
 - Eliminating overly vigorous first-year vertical sprouts intercepting sunlight that would otherwise penetrate to the tree's interior fruit buds
 - Shortening stems to flower wood (2-year or older) and directing energy into fruit production.

Do you have functioning basic tools for summer pome pruning?

They're no different than tools for winter pruning:

- bypass hand pruner for branches up to 1/2 inch diameter.
 - bypass loppers for branches 1/2 inch to 1 inch diameter.
 - handsaw for branches with a diameter greater than 1 inch diameter.
- In one of his videos, Robert Sweet briefly covers these tools. Generally, you get what you pay for, and if you buy quality, you'll need to buy fewer replacement tools. Before summer pruning, make sure you know where a stocked first aid kit is nearby. Quality tools stay sharp longer.

Does your summer pome pruning include climbing up a ladder?

If not, skip 2 pages ahead. Ladder-related injuries aren't uncommon.

Injuries include sprains, strains, bruises, cuts, and broken bones when orchardists fall from ladders, fall with toppling ladders, slip from ladder steps, catch feet on ladder steps, are poked by branches or hit by released branches.



Tripod orchard ladder and tree pruning safety for backyard orchards

1. Avoid using ladders as much as possible. It only takes one misstep to result in a life-altering mishap negatively impacting your fruit-growing and other life activities. If planning a new orchard and/or redeveloping mature trees, write an orchard management plan with zero ladder activity.
2. Select tripod (3-legged) ladders for orchard pruning. Avoid 4-legged ladders or leaning 2-legged ladders against tree leaders and branches.
3. Tripod orchard ladders aren't all the same. If you plan to buy a ladder, research and purchase a tripod orchard ladder with modern safety features which will cost more initially but save time and stress over years of backyard orchard maintenance activities. See adjacent "Top-Rung Traits" box.
4. Wear clothing and personal protective equipment (PPE) which might lessen the chance of injury during ladder work: Sturdy shoes with slip-resistant soles, long pants & long-sleeved shirts without loose fabric, eyewear with side protection.
5. Before each use, inspect tripod orchard ladder for damage. To no one's surprise: Don't use a damaged ladder, and physically label damaged ladder so it isn't used until fixed.

Tripod orchard ladder and tree pruning safety for backyard orchards

6. Common tripod orchard ladders can't be used on hard or smooth surfaces and will collapse if used this way. (This happened to a STFS member pruning a kiwi trellis several years ago, it was scary, and thankfully he wasn't hurt). For stability, the tongue (pole) of common tripod orchard ladders needs to be planted solidly into soft soil. Optional rubberized shoes may be available for ladder legs and tongue which when secured to leg/tongue bottoms provides slip-resistance.
7. Doublecheck that tongue (pole) of common tripod orchard ladder is planted solidly into soft soil and not a gopher hole or some other unstable, false surface.
8. Tripod orchard ladders when set up too steep or too flat will tip back or collapse forward when you climb on. Suggested ladder angle: Extend and plant tongue (pole) into soft ground then stand on the ground with your feet under the bottom ladder rung. From this position, reach out with your hands; If ladder is set up at a safe angle, without bending your back, you should be able to grab the ladder's two side rails with your hands.
9. When ascending or descending the ladder, always keep 3 points (a combination of hands or feet) firmly in contact with the ladder.
10. When standing on a ladder, to no one's surprise: Don't stand on the top two rungs.
11. When standing on a ladder, always keep your toes pointing forward towards the ladder.
12. When standing on a ladder, follow the belt buckle or belly button rule: Don't lean out so far to one side of the ladder that your belt buckle or belly button is positioned outside of the ladder's two side rails. If you can't, climb down to the ground then move the ladder.
13. Never step from ladder onto any part of fruit tree. Fruit tree parts may not support your weight. Stepping onto fruit tree may tip over ladder.
14. Thirteen is considered in Christian cultures to be unlucky even beyond the last supper table necessitating this fourteenth item. So is walking under a ladder possibly because it resembles a gallows or more reasonably because of heavy objects possibly falling from overhead.

Watch the SAIF safety video ([How to use an orchard ladder safely - YouTube](#)) covering safer use of common tripod orchard ladders lacking modern "top-rung traits".

SAIF safe orchard ladder use URL: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5zTUJ9_29b8

Top-Rung Orchard Ladder Traits

- Lightweight for easier carrying & moving within canopy
- Welded (not riveted or otherwise mechanically fastened) aluminum construction (aluminum like other metals conduct electricity so keep ladder away from overhead and other electrical sources)
- Telescoping, adjustable tongue (pole or back leg) with



spring-loaded lockpin

- Safety chain connecting tongue (pole or back leg) to climbing ladder
- Deeper double-rung steps resisting accumulation of slippery dirt and debris
- Rubber shoes included to place on legs for stability on hard, smooth surfaces on side rail feet and tongue (pole)

President Biden probably would say ... This sucker is safe.

Several Japan-based companies (Hasegawa, Nawaki and maybe others) manufacture tripod orchard ladders “engineered for safety, built to last” well beyond the common tripod orchard ladders widely available to American orchardists. Apparently, these modern tripod orchard ladders are utilized all over Japan and Europe and have just recently been introduced to the US market. Check out the following links advertising these “top-rung” orchard ladders, and be alert for any Costco Surprise selling these ladders for a limited time only. If you’re in the market, don’t hesitate.

Hasegawa Ladders – Engineered for Safety, Built to Last. Or <https://www.hasegawaladders.com/>

How to use your tripod ladder safely. Hasegawa ladders are safe, but safe use is just as important. - YouTube Or <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0gAShs9AVGI>

Niwaki Are The UK’s Original Tripod Ladder Supplier Or <https://www.niwaki.com/tripod-ladders/#P00325-10>

Niwaki Tripod Ladder - YouTube Or <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bn3Ma9u70No>



No Time Yourself This Season To Climb & Prune For These Reasons?

Hiring a Professional for Fruit Tree Pruning **By Tracey Bernal, CPH, EPC***

There are several reasons that you may have recently decided that it’s time to hire a professional to take over the annual pruning of your fruit trees. These might include the following:

- 1. You might have done your own pruning, but no longer feel comfortable getting up on a ladder.**
- 2. You may not have realized when you planted your trees that they would need annual pruning to keep them a reasonable size and to keep them productive, and you have neither the time, the knowledge, or the desire to do the work yourself.**
- 3. You may have inherited the trees planted by a former owner of your property and want to renovate them using a different pruning strategy than was done previously.**

Before you start looking for a professional to prune your trees, it’s a good idea to decide what your pruning goals are, so that you have a better sense about the pruning method that you want used and if the person that you interview is a good fit for your pruning needs.

Some good sources of basic fruit tree pruning information are the [Pruning Fruit Trees](#) fact sheet from City Fruit, and also the section on [Fruit Trees](#) in the late great Cass Turnbull’s *Guide to Pruning*, available from the PlantAmnesty resource collection, free to PA members.

Hiring a Professional for Fruit Tree Pruning (cont. from page 8)

Now that you've refreshed your knowledge of fruit tree pruning, it's time to locate a possible fruit tree pruning specialist.

City Fruit offers very reasonably priced **Tree Care Services**. These services can provide a homeowner with a comprehensive fruit tree maintenance plan, if needed.

PlantAmnesty manages a **referral service** to provide experienced homeowners with experienced gardeners, some of whom specialize in fruit tree care.

A qualified Arborist/Tree Service (referral available through PlantAmnesty) might be another option, especially if you are more concerned with retaining the ornamental qualities of your fruit trees rather than maximizing fruit production. Many arborists do not have extensive fruit tree pruning experience but are nonetheless skilled by current standards of tree pruning. An arborist or tree service will likely be the most expensive of the above options, due to the higher cost of doing business for this type of company.

The person you are interviewing should be able to describe what they will be doing and why they are doing it, for you to have a sense that they are a good match for your pruning needs.

You might consider the following "mantra" for fruit tree pruning that has stuck with me all these years since I got it wrong answering an exam question in my pruning class at almost 15 years ago:

"When in doubt, thin out!" - because simply reducing the amount of fruit an older or established tree will produce is a step in the right direction!

*CPH = Certified Professional Horticulturist;
EPC = ecoPRO Certified Landscape Professional

URLs linked to article hypertext:

<https://www.cityfruit.org/sites/default/files/file-uploads/pruning.pdf>

<https://www.plantamnesty.org/resource-categories/fruit/>

<https://www.cityfruit.org/fruit-tree-care/tree-care-services-supporting-your-trees-health-sharing-our-knowledge>

<https://www.plantamnesty.org/services/referral-services/>

STFSers' Dispatches

**1 little,
2 little,
3 little
corvids**

**Ed Scullywest, STFS Board member,
reported crows not deterred by
stringing of 500 feet of scare tape &
continue to pull transplants. Curses!**



**Scare
tape
doesn't
faze
crows**

**Crows say: "Scare tape? Nah...Party streamers"
R crows of any good to backyard gardener/orchardist?**

Fruit Pest Control by Paper Wasps

Longtime STFS member and grafting extraordinaire Greg Giuliani tolerates nesting paper wasps because they potentially kill larvae and pupae of fruit plant pests. WSU Ext. Srv. agrees: "Yellowjackets and paper wasps are beneficial insects. They feed their young numerous insects that ordinarily damage shade trees and crops." "By summer, the paper wasp nest may be oblong or round in shape, up to six inches wide, and may contain up to about 75 workers, in addition to the queen." "Once a nest is established, paper wasps may sting to defend it."

Related WSU Ext. Pub.: [PNW PPCommonWasps.pdf \(wsu.edu\)](https://wsu.edu/eb0643) & [eb0643 \(wsu.edu\)](https://s3.wp.wsu.edu/uploads/sites/415/2014/12/PNW_PPCommonWasps.pdf) or <https://s3.wp.wsu.edu/uploads/sites/1384/2016/07/Yellowjackets-and-Paper-Wasps.pdf>

**Mason bees,
paper wasps
cohabitate @
demo
orchard
May '21**



Cornmeal Jam Scones

Contributed by Tracey Bernal

1 ⅓ cups all-purpose flour

⅔ cup yellow cornmeal

2 tablespoons granulated sugar

2 tablespoons packed brown sugar

1 ½ teaspoons baking powder

¼ teaspoon baking soda

½ teaspoon salt

½ cup cold butter, cut up

½ cup buttermilk

1 egg

1 ½ teaspoons finely shredded lemon peel

½ cup thick jam or preserves

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Line a large baking sheet with parchment paper; set aside.

In a large bowl combine flour, cornmeal, granulated sugar, brown sugar, baking powder, baking soda, and salt. **Cut in butter until flour mixture resembles coarse crumbs.** Make a well in center. Combine buttermilk, egg, and peel; add all at once to flour mixture. Stir with a fork just until moistened.

Turn dough out onto floured surface and fold together several times.

See pics of assembly on right. 1. Divide in half and pat each half into a 7-inch round. **2.** Spread jam onto one dough round. **3.** Top with the other dough round, and press down gently. **4.** Cut into 8 wedges and **5.** carefully transfer to baking sheet. Using a baker's bench knife will be helpful here for both the cutting and the transferring.

Bake for 20 to 25 minutes or until tops are golden.

Notes: Although I generally bake unfilled biscuits and scones at a much higher temperature and shorter time (450 degrees F and 10 minutes), you'll get better results with a longer baking time at a lower temperature in that the jam or preserves will not burn, but instead will become lightly caramelized. You can substitute up to 1 cup of the total 2 cups of flour/cornmeal with other flours such as buckwheat, barley, and rye—these flours combine well with other fruits. I like to use rye with plum, barley with citrus marmalade, and buckwheat with quince. Depending on the moisture level of the flour used, you may need to add a bit more when turning out the dough and forming it into the rounds.



Wanted NOW: Volunteer WCFS BeeLine Editor



Several months ago, Kiwibob Glanzman reported that the most recent quarterly WCFS BeeLine newsletter online was the Winter 2021 edition. During the WCFS quarterly chapter meeting held via zoom 6/12/21 AM, Ron Weston, WCFS President, confirmed that WCFS immediately needs someone to step up and volunteer as the BeeLine quarterly newsletter editor. Later on 6/12/21, Ron emailed more editor position details: **BeeLine editor assembles the quarterly newsletter from other authors' articles. The 9 WCFS chapters are expected to provide content. BeeLine editor also needs to find additional content from other publications like Good Fruit Grower. Ideally, the new BeeLine editor is proficient with Microsoft Publisher which is similar to PowerPoint and other Office software.** Past BeeLine editions are available for review at the WCFS website (www.WCFS.org) under the "Resources" tab. Marilyn Couture, former BeeLine editor, emailed on 6/12/21 that BeeLine editor activities are rewarding and educational to all. Marilyn offered some initial mentoring for the new editor. Interested? Contact Ron (email ronweston09@comcast.net) or Marilyn (email marilyncouture1@gmail.com) directly.

FOMO NOMO

Fear Of Missing Out? NO MORE! ... At least for SSFS meeting presentations. Francesca from South Sound/Olympic Fruit Society (SSFS) has consistently sent zoom invitations to the STFS email account. For recent SSFS meetings, a STFS rep has passed along the zoom invite info to STFS membership about a week in advance of each presentation. Thanks, Francesca.

If you're a STFS member who has missed out on these SSFS learning opportunities, FOMO NOMO ... SSFS representatives have taken the additional technological step of setting up a YouTube account and posting past zoom presentations for all viewers to watch.

As of June 7th, the June 1st presentation on Clopyralid herbicide contaminated organic compost hasn't yet been posted, but current SSFS YouTube listings include (ctrl click to access):

PNW home orchard pests: David Muehleisen

[SSFS Monthly Meeting May 4, 2021 - YouTube](#)

Fruit and nut plants for PNW: Michael Dolan, Burnt Ridge

[SSFS Monthly Meeting April 6, 2021 - YouTube](#)

Backyard Raspberry Growing: Lisa Wasko DeVetter, WSU NWREC

[SSFS Monthly Meeting Feb. 2, 2021 - YouTube](#)

Preparing PNW gardens/orchards for climate change: Daron Williams, Wildhomesteading

[SSFS Monthly Meeting Jan. 5, 2021 - Preparing Gardens & Orchards for Climate Change - YouTube](#)

Growing Chestnut Trees Now and Historically: Chris & Guy: Many Trees Project

[SSFS Monthly Meeting Dec. 1, 2020 - Growing Chestnut Trees for Resiliency and Food Security. - YouTube](#)

SSFS YouTube online channel and above presentations are also accessible using the link:

https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=south+sound+fruit+society

Apparently, viewers can sign up for new content alerts and other features.

Thanks again, SSFS for informative content beneficial to all fruit growers of the PNW.

STFS: Who Are We & What We Do

Western Cascade Fruit Society (WCFS), a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, was founded in 1980 & is made up of nine Western Washington chapters, including STFS, full of helpful hobby orchardists & backyard fruit growers.

STFS members receive automatic membership in WCFS. WCFS publishes a quarterly BeeLine electronic newsletter to inform members of events, tours, articles & reports. WCFS provides other member services, including an online member forum, an online chapter-wide event calendar & an online home for chapter sites. See www.wcfs.org.

Seattle Tree Fruit Society (STFS) is a chapter of WCFS. The purposes of STFS are listed in Article II of STFS By-laws amended & restated as of 18 January 2014:

STFS will bring together people ...

- 1) to promote & stimulate interest in growing fruit bearing trees, shrubs & vines in urban areas,
- 2) to encourage propagation of desirable fruit varieties suited to the local climate,
- 3) to disseminate pertinent horticultural information to its members & the general public through the use of fruit shows, orchard tours, meetings, seminars, workshops, publications & other media,
- 4) to provide financial & other support to our area's fruit research and/or projects, &
- 5) to join with other organizations in promoting tree fruit in the Western Cascade region.

STFS members share an interest in growing fruit & nut trees, berries, kiwis, grapes & other fruit. We offer information on adapted varieties, current growing techniques & share our own experiences growing fruit.

STFS members meet monthly from Sept to May usually in-person on a Saturday morning in Seattle's Magnuson Park. In-person meetings typically include speakers presenting on topics such as grafting, pruning, pest control, plant health & fruit preservation tailored to Western Washington growers. STFS members receive both the STFS online monthly newsletter Urban Scion Post (USP) & the WCFS online quarterly BeeLine. STFS is online at www.seattletreefruitsociety.com and www.facebook.com/SeattleTreeFruitSociety/

The STFS membership is Seattle Tree Fruit Society. The goals of STFS are achieved by STFS members. Please contact STFS representatives listed in this newsletter and communicate what STFS can do for you and what you can do for STFS. When more STFS members get involved, STFS does more & attracts more STFS members who get involved.

Seattle Tree Fruit Society

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www.seattletreefruitsociety.com

www.facebook.com/SeattleTreeFruitSociety/

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(2-year term expires Jan 2023)

VICE PRES. Tracey Bernal 206.913.3778
(2-year term expires Jan 2023)

SECRETARY Sue Williams 206.383.8033
(2-year term expires Jan 2023)

TREASURER Trent Elwing 206.517.3118
(2-year term expires Jan 2023)

MEMBERSHIP Trent Elwing 206.517.3118

HOSPITALITY Judy Scheinuk 206.200.1483
scheinukj@gmail.com

STFS DIRECTORS

#1 - Laure Jansen

(3-year term expires Jan 2024)

#2 - Linda Sartnurak 425.271.6264

noilinda@yahoo.com

(3-year term expires Jan 2024)

#3 - Ed Scullywest 425.286.4030

(3-year term expires Jan 2024)

#4 - Rick Shultz rshultz@highline.edu

(3-year term expires Jan 2024)

#5 - Gudrun Utz

(3-year term expires Jan 2024)

#6 - Vacant—please volunteer

(3-year term expires Jan 20??)

#7 - Vacant—please volunteer

(3-year term expires Jan 20??)

USP NEWSLETTER EDITORS

Trent Elwing treling@gmail.com

Laure Jansen seattleorchardist@gmail.com

Tracey Bernal tmjbernal0216@gmail.com

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Orchard - Vacant—please volunteer

Events - Vacant—please volunteer

Programs - Vacant—please volunteer

NEW MEMBERSHIP & RENEWAL FORM

Seattle Tree Fruit Society

www.seattletreefruitsociety.com

A Chapter of the Western Cascade Fruit Society

www.wcfs.org

Name:

Phone:

Address:

City, State, ZIP:

Email address:

DUES (includes STFS and Western Cascade Fruit Society)

New Member – Regular Rate – \$25	_____
New Member – Limited Income or Student Rate – \$15	_____
Renewing – Regular Rate – \$25	_____
Renewing – Limited Income or Student Rate – \$15	_____
Optional: Donation to support fruit research (\$5 min)	+ _____
Optional: Donation (other purpose) (\$5 min)	+ _____
TOTAL	_____

make checks payable to STFS., and mail with this form to:

STFS, c/o Trent Elwing,
1035 Alaska Ave E, Port Orchard, WA 98366

Our STFS club is run by and for our members - volunteers make things happen. If you would like to help, contact any Officer or Board member (see your newsletter) or email seattletreefruitsociety@gmail.com

How do I know when my annual STFS membership will expire?

Back in March 2020 before the COVID-19 pandemic took hold, printed USP newsletters were USPS-mailed, and the STFS membership renewal date was printed above the mailing address of each member’s hardcopy printed newsletter.

To minimize spread of the coronavirus causing COVID-19, USP newsletters are now electronic and emailed. A reminder to renew your STFS membership no longer is printed above the mailing address.

Depending upon when a STFS member joins, annual memberships expire at the end of March, June, September or December each year.

Trent Elwing, STFS membership coordinator, will email STFS members one month prior to an expiring STFS membership reminding of the need to renew shortly and how to renew.

**Need to know now? Contact Trent
(phone/text: 206.517.3118 email: trelwing@gmail.com)**