

A close-up photograph of three yellow apricots hanging from a branch. The apricot on the right is heavily blemished with numerous dark brown spots, while the two on the left are smooth and bright yellow. The background consists of green leaves and a blurred ground surface.

**Good 'cot.  
Blemished 'cot.  
On Puget Sound '23.**

*the Urban Scion Post*

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

As the STFS membership coordinator, occasionally I feel that I am paying penance for past instances when with STFS and other organizations, I let my membership lapse then wasn't respectful of the time and effort spent by representatives trying to confirm my continued interest in membership or desire to depart. When considering collectively everyone's time and energy, it's best to say upfront and firmly "No. I don't want to renew" when membership is no longer desired.

If you're on the espalier whether your STFS membership dues need to be spent on something more necessary, consider that recent, past USP newsletters are posted on the STFS membership webpage shortly after issuance for public access. If the most recent issue is a little late being posted, reviewing the same month issue of previous years might offer insight regarding what you should be doing in your backyard orchard during the month of the current year.

All handwritten notes accompanying membership renewals are appreciated but nowadays like other personal communications are more concise and less singular than the correspondence below from a longtime STFS member some years ago who probably was sitting in Marlene Falkenbury's living room 26 Jan 1985 at the first STFS (aka Western Cascade Tree Fruit Association Seattle Chapter) meeting. By Feb 1986 according to that month's newsletter, Tom S. had already stepped up and volunteered to be the club Secretary. Most, but not all, STFS newsletter issues are archived, bound and available to review at the [Elisabeth C. Miller library](#) located at the [Center for Urban Horticulture](#) in Seattle.

2016 letter from longtime STFS member Tom S.

Dear STFS,  
I too had a bumper crop of Early Fuyu persimmons - now drying as thick slices in my dryer.  
I'm 93 years old and am enjoying annually Stella cherries, Italian plums, seven kinds of apples, and persimmons, once the tree reached a decent size a couple of years ago.  
At my age it doesn't seem strategic to plant anymore fruit plants with 3 or more years until significant <sup>fruit</sup> becomes possible. Would dearly love to have kiwis or nuts, alas!  
... in mature 15-20 feet tall

Inside this issue:

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**On the cover**  
Apricots' really early bloom may be problematic in the iffy spring weather of Puget Sound. Puget Gold apricot tree planted near Manchester, WA set some fruit in 2021, no fruit during springless 2022, and some in 2023 despite a cold early spring. The blemishes on the right seem to have appeared after an unusual cold rain June 10th followed quickly by hot sunny weather. Blemishes remained localized to fruit's surface with minimal impact then cut away or not before eating. Has anyone else observed this and know what might have been the cause?

# Membership Coordinator Message contd.

have Kiwis or nuths, alas!  
 But I also have a big mature 15-20 feet tall Japanese Shire plum, always the first tree to bloom! Beautiful. — BUT often the blossoms are accompanied by cold weather and rain, rain and more rain. Too cold for pollinators to fly! This year I had just 4 plums (on a south branch) on the entire tree. If the pollinators don't fly, I would like to learn how to be a pollinator myself. In some areas of China I understand that entire orchards are hand-pollinated because all pollinators have been eliminated. Could we have a Pollination meeting sometime before April? I used to have a hive of bees until Colony Collapse Disease wiped me out 3 times in a row. I still have a lot of bee equipment that I would like to give to a member with bees. Any such person in STFS?  
 Tom Steinhauer

I can't hear very well but I can still read!

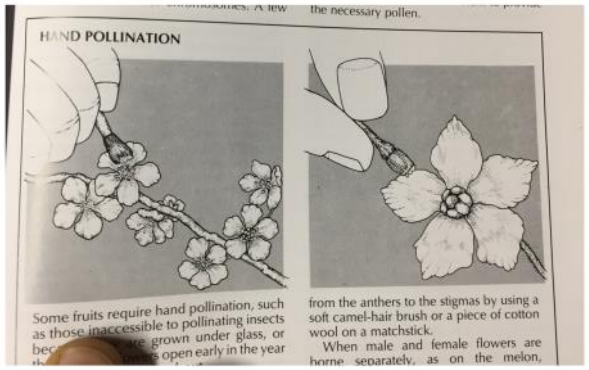
At a point in time, getting in contact with longtime members becomes very difficult, and determining when members now live on in our memories can be challenging.

Looking back at the content of Tom's 2016 letter, pollination appeared to be a concern especially insect-mediated. Tom mentioned the difficulty maintaining a viable honeybee hive, and this problem continues to be: Towards the end of June 2023, The UK Guardian reported **US honeybees suffer second deadliest season on record**. This determination was made by a survey funded and

administered by the non-profit research group **Bee Informed Partnership**. Factors cited in the UK Guardian article: "The parasitic mite *Varroa destructor*, which transmits viruses, is the chief culprit, but bad weather and queen issues were also big problems in the past year, University of Maryland bee researcher Nathalie Steinhauer, the survey's lead author, said. Pesticides also make things worse because they make bees more vulnerable to diseases and less likely to seek food, she said."

And overuse of pesticides especially the particularly broadly toxic kind dispersed in

## Hand Pollination



the 1950s and their continued residual persistence, probably negatively impacted insect pollinators in parts of China to the point that hand pollination was (maybe is) required for tree fruit production.



# Curb appeal attracting native pollinators

Trent Elwing

With all the apparent fake news and internet dis/misinformation, should we believe anything we haven't observed ourselves?

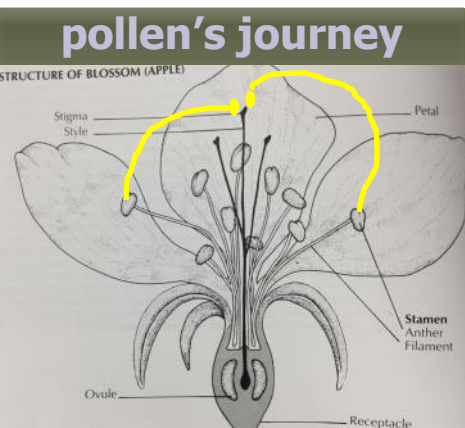
The background buzz suggests that native pollinator populations are in decline. However, past baseline surveys appear to be lacking, and any conclusions on population trends probably are supported by very limited data sets. Maybe the native pollinators are alright. Or maybe not.

As a home orchardist or backyard gardener, your physical exercise probably is more meaningful than hoisting kettle balls kettlebells or running through mud. For all your dirty, menial labor, what better goal than abundant fruits and vegetables healthy for you, your family and friends. Even better: reaping this harvest from a micro-ecosystem you've created that also supports the native pollinators that assist you. Quid pro quo.

## Getting to know all about PNW native pollinators.

Your firsthand observations working on your property over the years are more relevant to your micro-ecosystem than peer-reviewed scientific studies of widespread native pollinator populations. Guides are available to assist you with assessing whether your micro-ecosystem is attracting the free help of western Washington native pollinators.

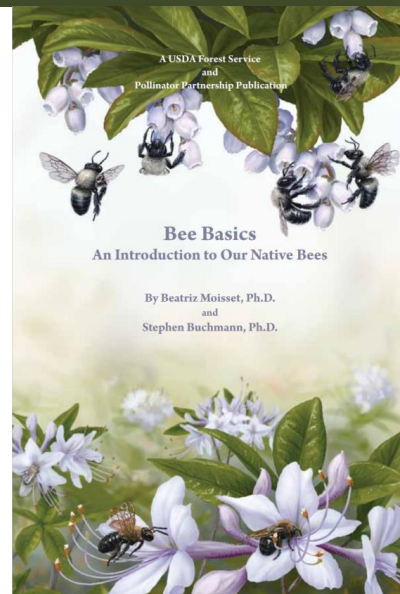
The northwest pollinator initiative\* was a program of [WSU Dept. of Entomology/Crowder Laboratory](#) generally focused on pollination services for small-scale diversified farming systems in western WA.



Along with many other variables, more pollen contacting the stigma produces better, marketable fruit. Multiple visits by a variety of pollinators to blossoms produces an ample

supply of quality fruit as well as tomatoes, peppers, squash and other fruits misidentified as vegetables.

Recognizing that all of us can make and report valuable observations, several guides were written by Elias H. Bloom and associates for identifying western Washington pollinators. These documents are available online for free downloads.



Bloom EH, Olsson RL, Crowder DW (2017) [A Citizen Science Guide to Wild Bees and Floral Visitors in Western Washington](#). Washington State University Press, Pullman, Washington.

Bloom EH, Olsson RL, Wine EH, Schaeffer RN, and Crowder DW (2018) [An introduction to cavity-nesting bees in the Puget Sound region](#). Washington State University Press. Pullman, Washington.

Section III of the 2017 Citizen Science guide offers suggestions about how to observe and record flower visits by pollinators.

These guides cover buzz-pollinating bumblebees, springtime mason bees and a number of lesser known species including long-horned, digger, sand/mining, wool carder, green, masked-faced, and small carpenter bees along with other frequent floral visitors.

Both of these guide documents include internet links to related, helpful readings and resources.

## Snubbed by native pollinators? What does your micro-ecosystem have to offer?

If you don't observe native bees or other pollinators on your property, maybe they haven't gone extinct. Instead, they might be next door dining on the spread laid down in your neighbor's micro-ecosystem.

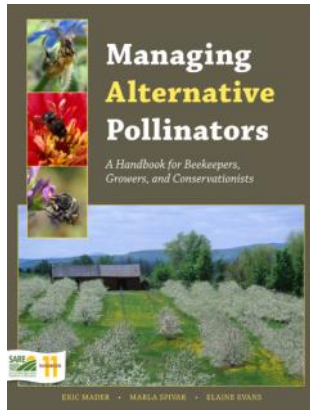


Driving to Costco after closing or that long-forgotten vacant Sam's Club on Aurora Ave in order to buy food makes no sense. Don't expect native pollinators to visit your well-manicured lawn and greenscaping if it lacks their food & shelter. Life is short and time precious especially for short-lived native pollinators.

Examples: 1) [KCD 5 Ways to Support Pollinators](#), 2) [Selecting Plant for Pollinators Pacific Lowland Mixed Forest](#), 3) [Xerces Society Pollinator Conservation Resources for Washington](#), 4) [NRCS Pollinator Biology and Habitat, Gardening for Bees Bugs and Butterflies](#) and 5) [Wildflower Strips Increase Pollinator Visits to Crops](#).



"[Managing Alternative Pollinators ...](#)" is a really good read covering, among other interesting related topics, pollinator management for modern-day commercial farming including feeding/sheltering techniques to ensure consistent, reliable pollination services. The electronic version of this handbook is free for download online. If you haven't already, you really, really should download and read this book. Mader et al.



(2010) [Managing Alternative Pollinators: A handbook for beekeepers, growers, and conservationists](#). SARE Handbook 11, NRAES 186. Ithaca, NY.

As testament to how maligned commercial farming has become, native pollinators are branded as "alternative pollinators" just as "conventional farming" isn't farming with old-fashioned organic inputs but rather synonymous with inorganic, synthetic fertilizers and petrochemical-based biocides. As if everything means its opposite.

See "Managing Alternative Pollinators ..." Appendix C pages 128-129 for a list of suggested plants maximizing bee reproduction (aka bee ranching).

Other venerable organizations supply additional guidance. King Conservation District (KCD [www.kingcd.org](http://www.kingcd.org) search "[pollinator resources](#)") and Xerces Society ([www.xerces.org/pollinator-resource-center](http://www.xerces.org/pollinator-resource-center)) offer a variety of documents online with most available as a free electronic download.

[KCD 5 Ways to Support Pollinators](#) offers additional rules of the green thumb for attracting and nurturing native pollinators. Summarizing: 1) provide native plants, 2) re-think (even better: eliminate) chemical use, 3) leave leaves as ground cover, 4) re-think (even better: minimize) tillage, 5) grow cover crops. Basically live simply performing plenty of worthwhile physical activity with less soil turning and less leaf raking. Why does a task that anyone can do never get done? It's hard (but meaningful) work.



### ***Bee friendly beyond your property line.***

Xerces Society and Oregon Tilth are overseeing the [Bee Better Certified](#) certification program with inspection of member farms that have created bee-friendly habitat, reduced pesticide use and abide by other program-prescribed precautionary practices. Maybe you can encourage others to establish additional native pollinator habitat by purchasing Bee Better Certified products and/or convincing the sustainability officers of bigly retailers to stock products of [Bee Better Certified suppliers](#).





While communicating with these corporate types, maybe also point out the unsustainable liability of selling Roundup, neonics and other pollinator-killing poisons marketed to residential homeowners. Back in 2019, Costco apparently stopped selling Roundup. Maybe a communication from you can convince

Costco to make additional bee-friendly business decisions. A bigger bite to chew: if your other neighbor sprays neonics and Roundup, it's probably negatively impacting the native pollinators you and your better neighbor are trying to attract and nurture. Are you and your better neighbor willing to discuss this with your other neighbor?

### Observations of my backyard's micro-ecosystem.

I live on the Kitsap Peninsula near Manchester on a well-drained, 2/3-acre lot with a flat area receiving full sun. I try to grow a variety of flowering cover crops throughout the spring and summer. After two years onsite, I haven't yet succeeded with succession planting that ensures a continual ample food source for native pollinators. The native bumblebees appear to love overwintered kale and other Brassica plants as well as the easy-to-grow *Phacelia tanacetifolia* (aka bee's friend, fiddleneck, scorpion-weed #20) that I broadcast several times throughout the year.



Overwintered Brassicas



Bee's friend Phacelia sp

Besides the cover crops, the bumblebees and other natives appear interested in planted organo patches as well as salal and trailing blackberry growing under conifer trees on the perimeter. I need to do more research into whether I am providing wholesome sustenance or just the equivalent of fast food in a food desert.

I keep mason bees onsite and generate roughly several hundred viable cocoons to put out with shelters the following spring. Due to ongoing garden projects, I also have piles of bare soil, dried vegetation and woody debris which may offer shelter to native pollinators.

At my place, onsite foraging bumblebee populations in the spring probably number in the thousands when yellow Brassicas and purple Bee's Friend flowers cover my gardening area. By July of the past several years, onsite food sources have dwindled, and fewer pollinators are visiting. Hopefully they are seeking and finding nourishment nearby.

\*Internet search "northwest pollinator initiative" nowadays catches another helpful hit ...



Pollinator Pathway NW. From Pollinator Pathway NW "Pollinator Pathway Northwest is a project that originated at 21 Acres, a center for sustainable education and collective action, with the planting of a demonstration pollinator garden (see below). As we learned more about the current plight of the pollinators, the volunteers soon set our sights on mobilizing the larger community to provide critical pollinator habitat. Inspired by the efforts of a similar organization in the Eastern US, we began to envision a similar corridor of pollinator friendly plantings across the Pacific Northwest and an upwelling of informed citizens willing to help provide plentiful and healthy habitats for our pollinators. Please join us – plant a pollinator friendly garden or planter, including plants native to the Northwest, stop using pesticides and share your new knowledge with friends, neighbors and family. The mission of the Pollinator Pathway NW volunteers is to support local agriculture by promoting pollinator health. We are supported by our founding partners, 21Acres, Sammamish Valley Alliance, the Sammamish Valley Grange and Coastal Community Bank.

From Pollinator Pathway "The first of these Pollinator Pathway projects began in 2017 in Wilton, CT. Since then, Pathways have been established in over 300 towns in 11 states, and the list keeps growing. In 2021, the Pollinator Pathway became a nonprofit with 501c3 status and created a board of directors which includes organizers from several towns. The board works to support the network of community Pathway projects by managing this website and our social media, helping new pathways get started, connecting people to Pathways near them, advocating for policy that protects pollinators and pollinator habitat, holding webinars and information workshops, and more..."



Tired of reading about how to improve pollinator populations? How about listening? "**PoliNation** is a podcast from Oregon State University Extension Service that tells the stories of researchers, land managers and concerned citizens who are making bold strides to improve the health of pollinators." With over 200 episodes, POVs & subject matter vary. No extra time for listening to 20+ minute podcast? Podcast **transcripts along with lists of related online resources** are available. A quick review of recent podcasts reveals several focused on backyard orchard topics.

## PoliNation

Oregon State University  
Extension Service



- [226 - Spendal - Those amazing mason bees](#)
- [214 - Paul - Mason Bees in \(an unusually\) Cool Wet Spring](#)
- [183 - Pollinator Partnership - National Pollinator Week](#)
- [179- Michael Branstetter - The deep history of the mason bees](#)
- [176- Fred Weisensee - The pollinator plants you need!](#)
- [172 - Theresa Pitts-Singer - Where next for managed solitary bees](#)

## Mason Bee article from 1987 Organic Gardening issue re- printed in late eighties USP newsletter

Following is more on SUPERBEES as alternate pollinizers since honeybees are usually in short supply for the city orchardist. The article appeared in the Nov. 1987 issue of Organic Gardening, pp. 68+.

They pollinate as well as honeybees, but need less tending.



BLUE ORCHARD BEE



HONEYBEE

## Backyard Superbees

BY GREGORY DICKMAN

FOR MANY YEARS, the honeybee (*Apis mellifera*) has been the fruit grower's working partner. To ensure good pollination and fruit set on apples, almonds, blueberries and other early-flowering fruit crops, growers rent hives or raise their own bees. But if you're not interested in the care required to keep honeybees, there are alternatives. I've worked with two other kinds of bees—one American and one naturalized Japanese. Here are some of the advantages: males and females pollinate flowers, so only a few hundred bees (instead of thousands) are needed to pollinate an acre of trees; they have a short flight

range, so they stay in my orchard; and they are easy to manage, requiring little more than simple shelter, such as a bundle of paper tubes or straws to nest in. And, finally, their sting is no more troublesome than a mosquito bite.

The blue orchard bee (*Osmia lignaria*), which is native to the United States and Canada, nests singly rather than in large social groups like the honeybee. There are two subspecies, one found from the Rocky Mountains west, the other to the east. Since they occur all over the country, you can attract them to your own backyard simply by providing the right kind of nesting sites for them (more about

that later). Blue orchard bees are more efficient pollinators than honeybees. They gather both pollen and nectar on each flight, and they store the pollen on the underside of their abdomens, where it is more likely to contact the flower. A honeybee will visit up to 700 flowers a day and pollinate 95% to 99% of them. The former tends to wander and visit wildflowers as much as apple trees, but the latter forages more exclusively in the orchard. To put it another way, you need only 250 nesting blue orchard bees to get the same pollination results as you would from a hive of honeybees (30,000 to 40,000 bees!).

A related solitary bee, the horn-faced bee (*Osmia cornifrons*), has been used as a pollinator by Japanese fruit growers for more than 40 years. These bees are used as the sole pollinators of fruit trees for whole villages and even entire valleys. More than 10% of Japanese commercial growers use these bees as their only pollinators. Twenty percent use honeybees, and the remaining 70% must pollinate by hand due to a bee shortage resulting from pesticide overuse. Schoolchildren and sometimes the military are used to hand-pollinate orchards. Without this pollination effort many growers would not get a crop.

The Japanese bees have become established in 25 states. However, they will not survive in dry climates and require an average relative humidity of at least 60% to flourish. They are even more efficient than blue orchard bees—they can effectively pollinate more than 2,400 flowers in one day.

### MAKING BEES WELCOME

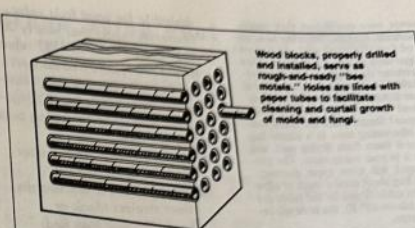
You can lure orchard bees to your trees with artificial nests. The nests can be

made of drilled blocks of wood, or made of bundles of paper tubes enclosed in a plastic pipe shelter. The nests can be placed under eaves of buildings near woods or set up on posts near woods. To make a nesting block, drill a series of holes into one end of a block of wood. To make your drill is sharp to ensure the same diameter, about 6 inches deep, and 1/2 inch diameter. The bees will build their nests inside these holes. To prevent the nest cells from growing mold or fungi, which are parasitic enemies of these bees, insert 1/8-inch-diameter paper tubes (soda straws) as liners for the holes. You can then use the blocks for years and change the liners as needed.

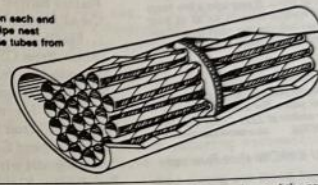
Alternatively, the tubes can be doubled over and assembled into bundles, then stuffed into each end of a short section of 2- or 3-inch-diameter polyvinyl chloride (PVC) pipe. This pipe should be of a light color to reduce heat buildup. The bees are allowed to enter at both ends of the pipe. A cardboard disc placed inside the pipe at its midpoint separates the two bundles of tubes and prevents light from showing through, which could discourage the bees from nesting. Specially coated paper tubes that deter parasites from penetrating the nests and killing the bees should be purchased.

The pipe should be at least 1 foot long on the bottom side with both ends angled up at about a 45° angle to shelter the bees completely. A 2-inch-diameter pipe holds about 25 tubes, which, when folded double, create 50 nesting holes; a 3-inch double holds about 60 tubes, for a total of 120 nesting holes. Larger pipes can be used to accommodate still more bees.

Nests can be placed on simple wooden stands that are easy to build. They should be sturdy enough to hold the pipe in a level position. To make them, cut one



The overhang on each end of this plastic pipe nest helps shelter the tubes from the weather.



piece of treated 1-by-2-inch wood 7 inches long and nail it horizontally to a tree trunk or branch.

Place the nesting stands on trees in a wooded area or on fence posts beside a wooded area at least 2 1/2 feet above the ground, to keep rodents from bothering the bees. The more nests you put out over a larger area, the more likely you are to obtain blue orchard bees. Orient the pipe nests along an east-west line to expose the bees to good morning and evening light.

After the bees' nesting activity has stopped, screen the nests to prevent any parasites or other solitary wasp species from nesting in the tubes. Unoccupied

nest tubes can be used the next spring to accommodate a growing bee population.

The nests can be left in place all year except in areas where temperatures dip below 0° F. In colder climates, place them in an unheated building in the fall. Hibernating bees can survive short periods at -5° F. Like many hardy plants, hibernating bees require a period of cold (below 40° F) to break dormancy in the spring. They do not normally emerge during short winter warm spells.

It can take time to develop a colony of orchard bees unless you purchase a starter colony. During tests at Utah State University, an average of one in four artificial nests was occupied the first year.

## 2023 Orchard Bee Association Annual Meeting

Learn about the latest mason bee research, tour the USDA Logan Bee Lab, and participate in industry discussions.

Virtual attendance will also be made possible via Zoom.

-Location: Utah State University, Logan, UT.

-Schedule (MST): September 28th Thursday 12pm-5pm, September 29th Friday 8am-5pm, and September 30th Saturday 8am-1pm

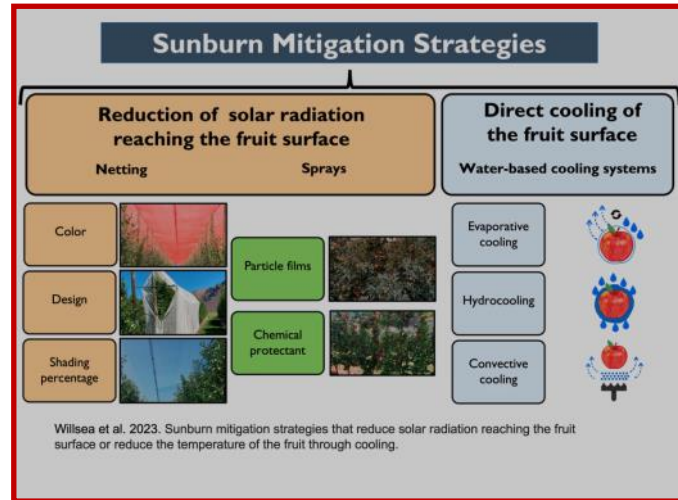
-Cost: \$125 for meeting registration & 1-year membership

# Protecting your fruit & yourself from heat stress



Thankfully, the 2023 Northern Hemisphere summer of biblical weather extremes has passed over the PNW with temperatures mostly normal though drought persists. Some heat with humidity is forecasted for the middle of August, so be wary of the stress that sun/heat/humidity can exert on you watering your backyard orchard. [USP 39 07 2021 Jul](#) is mostly devoted to this subject after the record heat dome occurring around the summer solstice of 2021 when the sun was high overhead for the longest days of the year. No clouds to offer any respite either during that period.

On July 13th, the [2023 Virtual Orchard Meetup Summer Series](#) online meeting "managing the uncontrollable heat" bore down on heat mitigation techniques in commercial orchards. Some takeaways: 1) Netting is costly but provides the best fruit finish and consistent sunburn protection. 2) If apples are to be stored following harvest, picked fruit needs to be cooled quickly. All enzymatic reactions (starch-sugar conversion, ethylene synthesis, aroma formation, cell wall degradation) are highly sensitive to temperature. 3) "Storability increases 2 to 3-fold for each 18°F (10°C) drop in temperature." 4) "Apple fruit are stored, but aren't storage organs. Biologically, fruit are 'designed' to be consumed, not stored."



## Anyone using maggot barriers to deter critters from thieving nearly ripe figs?



Swallowtail butterfly with torn wing foraging on oregano flowers. summer 2023 Port Orchard

# Savory & Spicy Apricot Sauce

If you still have fresh apricots harvested earlier this summer that are beginning to show their age, here's an umami spin on this healthful, nutritious stone fruit. Recipe is from [Jerry James Stone](#) whose website also covers how to store fresh fruits like [How to Store Apricots](#).



## Ingredients

1 lb apricots, halved, pitted & chopped  
1/2 Cup light brown sugar  
1/4 Cup honey  
1 Tbsp white miso or 1/2 Tbsp soy sauce  
1/2 tsp red pepper flakes  
2 garlic cloves, minced  
1/4 tsp salt  
1/4 Cup apple cider vinegar

## Tasks

1. Combine all ingredients in a Dutch oven or large saucepan.
2. Bring mixture to a boil over a medium-high heat, then reduce heat to a simmer.
3. Cook mixture until it begins to thicken and is syrup-like, about 30 to 60 minutes, depending on the moisture content of the apricots.
4. Test the sauce for doneness: Dip a spoon into the sauce, remove any excess, then drag your finger across the back of the spoon, through the sauce. If the sauce holds the line, it is ready. For a thinner sauce, puree with an immersion blender.
5. Once the sauce has cooled, refrigerate it in an airtight container.
  - Use within 10 days.
  - Makes about 8 (1/4-Cup) servings.
  - Serve warm or cool.



A 1751 botanical illustration of a mulberry tree. Photograph: New York Public Library

Kiwibob alerted the editor to an interesting article recently published in the online UK Guardian: [In search of lost fruit: the explorers tracking down ancient trees before they are gone forever](#). The article follows the efforts of Eliza Greenman hunting the haunts of colonial Virginia for historical agricultural plantings which may hold traits beneficial to a more resilient food supply. Old mulberry trees are a particular focus.

# BeeLine Editor still needed after long vacancy

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](http://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](mailto:ronweston09@comcast.net)) or Marilyn(email [marilyncouture1@gmail.com](mailto:marilyncouture1@gmail.com)) directly. Past editors have volunteered their time, but with the position still open now for many months, WCFS representatives may realize that a nominal stipend may be necessary to fill this position. You won't know if you don't ask.

BeeLine

## & Still Needed NOW: WCFS Treasurer

Longtime WCFS Treasurer, Jerry Gehrke, had hoped to retire from this volunteer position effective January 2023, but a replacement hasn't been found yet. WCFS doesn't have the luxury of going without a WCFS Treasurer. Jerry will coach any potential replacement candidate on what the job entails and see that she or he is equipped with the knowledge to succeed. For now, it is imperative that WCFS find the person for Jerry to mentor. Interested? Or know of someone who might be? Please contact Ron Weston, WCFS President, directly via email ([ronweston09@comcast.net](mailto:ronweston09@comcast.net)) ASAP.

## Good Home for your old, old Printed USPs

Upcycle your ancient printed USP newsletters. If you are doing some late spring cleaning and are about to recycle your old, old USP newsletters, please contact me ([trelwing@gmail.com](mailto:trelwing@gmail.com) or 206.517.3118) instead so I can make arrangements to pick them up. No digitized archive of USP newsletters exists, but thankfully the library at UW's center for urban horticulture maintains an incomplete printed archive (which is inconvenient for me living in Port Orchard).

## Do Demo Orchard Participation Survey by 8/31/23

Following STFS board discussion on May 20th, Board member Melinda M. set up an online survey to gauge STFS member interest and potential involvement in demo orchard activities.

Thanks, Melinda.

If you're inclined to participate, please complete the survey no later than August 31, 2023.

Results will be reviewed and hopefully will offer guidance for future STFS demo orchard activities. Estimated survey completion time is 1 minute with a nearly 3-in-4 chance of completion.

Here's the link to the [STFS Demonstration Orchard Participation Survey](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DCMQ9NZ): <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DCMQ9NZ>



## **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](http://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](http://www.seattletreefruitsociety.com) and [www.facebook.com/SeattleTreeFruitSociety/](http://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.

**Background: Bow Hill Blueberries was recently featured on a WA Grown TV episode (currently being aired on broadcast TV local CBS affiliate KIRO-7 Saturday; 7:30 PM PDT). Helpful hint for u-picking blueberries: Since individual adjacent berries don't ripen simultaneously, form a cup with both hands under blueberry cluster then tap tops of berries with thumbs (like texting on a "smartphone") which dislodges ripe berries from stems into cupped hands. Also, for bird scare, Bow employs "Wavy Davey" whose inflatable air dancing brethren thrash about at attention-seeking auto dealerships. In photo, netting from STFS used to protect berries from bird predation. Photo 10 Jul 23 Port Orchard**

## **Seattle Tree Fruit Society**

[seattletreefruitsociety@gmail.com](mailto:seattletreefruitsociety@gmail.com)

[www.seattletreefruitsociety.com](http://www.seattletreefruitsociety.com)

[www.facebook.com/SeattleTreeFruitSociety/](http://www.facebook.com/SeattleTreeFruitSociety/)

**PRESIDENT** Mike Ewanciw 206.683.9665

(2-year term expires Jan 2025)

**VICE PRES.** Tracey Bernal 206.913.3778

(2-year term expires Jan 2025)

**SECRETARY** Vacant—please volunteer

(2-year term expires Jan 20??)

**TREASURER** Trent Elwing 206.517.3118

(2-year term expires Jan 2025)

**MEMBERSHIP** Trent Elwing 206.517.3118

**HOSPITALITY** Judy Scheinuk 206.200.1483

[scheinukj@gmail.com](mailto:scheinukj@gmail.com)

### **STFS DIRECTORS**

#1 - Laure Jansen

(3-year term expires Jan 2024)

#2 - Linda Sartnurak 425.271.6264

[noilinda@yahoo.com](mailto:noilinda@yahoo.com)

(3-year term expires Jan 2024)

#3 - Ed Scullywest 425.286.4030

(3-year term expires Jan 2024)

#4 - Melinda McBride

(3-year term expires Jan 2026)

#5 - John Roach

(3-year term expires Jan 2025)

#6 - Ia Dubois

(3-year term expires Jan 2026)

#7 - Vacant—please volunteer

(3-year term expires Jan 20??)

### **USP NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

**Trent Elwing** [treling@gmail.com](mailto:treling@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](http://www.seattletreefruitsociety.com)

A Chapter of the Western Cascade Fruit Society

[www.wcfs.org](http://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)	+ _____
<b>TOTAL</b>	_____

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](mailto: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](mailto:trelwing@gmail.com))**