

ALASKA NAFEX NEWSLETTER

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MEETING DATES

NOV 16 7 p.m. NBA lunchroom.
Wayne Leiser will discuss edible landscaping and fall care of fruit trees.

SEPT AND OCT MEETINGS

Twelve members attended the September meeting. In addition to scrumptious food offerings, members shared information about summer production results including everything from berries, to fruits and vegetables. Reports were made about results with various varieties of strawberries, raspberries, success with hardy kiwis, tomatoes, cherries and apples. It was apparently a good year for cherries, raspberries and currants. It was a mediocre year for most young apple trees due to the severe test winter and problems with setting fruit this spring. The older, more established trees did much better except for 'Yellow Transparent'. Bob Nielson

had good luck with his 'Kuta' squash which grew to 8-10 inches in size from seed when grown outdoors. He got his seeds from Thompson and Morgan Seed Co.

Jay Dearborn presided over the October meeting with 18 members present. Jay made a presentation of photos of his orchard and samples of apples he and others brought for the apple tasting party. Apples available for tasting included 'Chinese Golden', 'Geneva Early', 'Canada Red', 'Vista Bella', 'Hazen', 'Northland', 'Yellow Jay', 'Westland', 'Parkland', 'Rescue', 'Summerred', 'Norda', 'Wealthy', Russian, and a number of unknown varieties offered by various contributors. Some characteristics Jay pointed out about each variety included:

'Chinese Golden' ripens early, sweet taste, doesn't store well, good for apple sauce

'Rescue' good eating apple, tangy, doesn't store well

'**Summer Red**' medium sized, red, stores well, crisp, hard, flavorful

'**Yellow Jay**' juicy, good for cider, not flavorful, stores well

'**Parkland**' medium sized, light red, good pie apple, doesn't store as well as some.

'**Vista Bella**' aromatic, fruity, with a distinctive flavor.

'**Norland**' good eating apple, grows well, shape has a distinctive point

'Hazen', 'Westland', 'Northland', and 'Yellow Transparent' were beyond their prime and not as good as they were a month earlier.

Jay shared photos of his orchard showing trees in various stages of blossoms to fruit. The orchard is located at Mile 1.2 Trunk Road which is between Palmer and Wasilla. Jay informs us he will be ordering Siberian crab rootstocks from Lawywer's Nursery in Montana and it should be available to anyone who is interested in having some by December.

A special note for apple lovers - watch for the apple bakeoff at the Alaska Railroad Depot on Sunday, Nov 12. Jay Dearborn will be one of the judges for that event.

-E. Simpson

THE PROOF IS IN THE PLUM

On Aug 13-16 I toured several of the Research and Extension Centers of Washington State University, namely those at

Wenatchee, Puyallup and Prosser. The IR-2 repository at Prosser contains an outstanding collection of hardy plums as well as other tree fruits which are grown to produce virus-index scionwood.

Bill Howell, who oversees the IR-2 repository, took me out to the plum section of the repository. There, he picked some ripe 'Toka', 'Superior' and 'Hanska' plums. The last is his favorite. The 'Superior' plums were 2 1/4 inches in diameter, the 'Toka', 1 1/2 inches and the 'Hanska', 1 3/4 inches. The 'Superiors' and 'Tokas' were bright red in color and the 'Hanskas', red-purple. All of them had yellow flesh and were clingstone.

Bill feels that 'Hanska' would be well worth trying in Alaska. It is hardy, ripens early, and is of good quality. It is a product of the fruit-breeding program in North Dakota conducted by Dr. N.E. Hanson during the first third of this century. -R. Purvis

RASPBERRY SURVIVAL IN FAIRBANKS

It may have been a good year for raspberries in southcentral, Alaska, but survival was very poor in my home garden. I have well established plantings of 'Latham', 'Boyne', 'Mammoth Red', and 'Kiska' as well as some newcomers 'Heritage', 'Festival' and 'Reveille'. Every variety died back to the ground except 'Kiska' which suffered only some tip dieback.

Since everything else died back, only 'Kiska's produced fruit, but the others recovered very well. Although 'Kiska' has small fruit, and some people don't like the flavor, it is still the hardiest raspberry around. -P. Holloway

APPLE BUTTER
by Frances Loomis

Prepare 4 quarts of apple pulp by placing quartered apples or crabapples and one quart of water into a kettle and cooking as for applesauce. Run pulp through a sieve and add:

- 8 c sugar
- 4 tsp cinnamon
- 1/2 tsp. ground cloves
- 1/2 tsp allspice

Place mix into an ovenproof container and bake at 350 degrees for 3-4 hours or until thick. Stir about every half hour during the baking process. Place hot apple butter into sterilized jars and invert sealed jars for about five minutes before tightening the lids.

Some of us were fortunate to sample this recipe at the October apple tasting in Anchorage. Mrs. Loomis was gracious enough to share it with us for those of you who would like to try it with some of your own apples. It is very tasty and certain to become one of your favorites.

BEE SCENT HONEYBEE
ATTRACTANT

Having trouble with pollination in your orchard? There is a new product on the market called BeeScent (manufactured by Sentry Corp) that claims to be a bee attractant. BeeScent contains 9% pheromone and 40% other natural attractants. It is applied at a rate of 2 qts of formulated product per acre.

In tests conducted in Washington, BeeScent increased fruit set by 23-44% on some pear varieties, 12% on sweet cherries, and 5-22% on 'Delicious' apples. Maybe it's worth a try in Alaska! Check you favorite fruit catalog for samples. Excerpted from "Orchards" Oregon State Univ. Extension Service Newsletter. Submitted by S. Brook

1990 DUES \$7.00 Payable by check or cash to Erik Simpson
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