

ALASKA NAFEX NEWSLETTER

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A Publication of the Alaska Chapter, North American Fruit Explorers (NAFEX)

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MEETING DATES

Feb 9. Thursday, 7 p.m. NBA lunchroom. All about hardy kiwis--panel discussion, moderator to be announced.

Mar 9 Thurs., 7 p.m. NBA lunchroom. Tomatoes and greenhouses. Speakers: Julie Riley and Ruth Edmondson.

Apr. 13 Thurs., 7 p.m. NBA lunchroom. Grafting workshop.

May 11 Thurs., 7 p.m. NBA lunchroom. Topics and speakers to be announced.

June 8 Thurs. 7 p.m. NBA lunchroom. Topics and speakers to be announced.

1989 DUES ARE DUE

Please pay your 1989 dues as soon as possible. Make checks of \$7.00 payable to Robert Purvis and mail to his home address listed above. Members not paying dues by March 1 will no longer be on the mailing list.

DON'T FORGET-- GRAFTING WORKSHOP IN FAIRBANKS

April 8, 1989, 1 p.m. 301 O'Neill Resources Building, University of Alaska Fairbanks, West Ridge.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS !

Mike and Ginger Burcham
P.O. Box 441
Delta Junction, AK 99737

Michael Hansen
P.O. Box 671769
Chugiak, AK 99567

Virginia B. Lembo
1342 W. 12th Avenue
Anchorage, AK 99501

JANUARY MEETING - TRYCK'S A TREAT

The January meeting of the Alaska Chapter drew a total of 28 people. The by-laws were adopted on a voice vote during the business meeting, but the best part of the meeting was Doug Tryck's talk, illustrated by many colorful slides, about his experiences as a nurseryman and plant lover in south Anchorage. Doug's location on Rabbit Creek Road is strongly influenced by the nearby waters of Turnagain Arm, resulting in warmer winters (nothing under -12 F in the past 12 years) and cooler summers than much of the rest of Anchorage. Discussing apples, Doug said that 'Chinese Golden Early' was his favorite.

Both 'Rescue' and 'Summerred' ripened well for him in 1988. 'Beacon', although barely ripe, was still good tasting. Surprisingly, 'Yellow Transparent' has not done particularly well for him. 'Hazen' and a 'Chestnut' crabapple have just started to flower for him this past season. Doug said that Bailey's, a Minnesota wholesale nursery, is selling 'Norland', 'Westland' and 'Parkland' this year.

In discussing ornamental crabapples, he mentioned the beautiful white blossoms of Malus baccata columnaris, the columnar Siberian crabapple, the double red blossoms of 'Kelsey' and the light pink flowers of 'Thunderchild'. One minor drawback of the 'Royalty' crabapple is that the purplish-red flowers do not stand out very well against the purplish foliage.

In 1987, Doug acquired some 'Summercrisp' pear trees from Bailey's. They overwintered the winter of 1987-88 with no winterkill and blossomed profusely in 1988. Unfortunately, his Ussurian pears were just about finished blooming at that time, so they did not cross pollinate the 'Summercrisp'.

Although Doug hadn't had much luck with his growing of a 'North Star' pie cherry, he has had some success with growing nanking cherries. He emphasized their need for southern exposure and well drained soils. At Brooks, Alberta, he discovered how tasty Prunus fruticosa, the ground cherry, could be. There, they were about the size of a currant bush. Prunus besseyi, the western sand cherry, needs good drainage. The pin cherry, P. pennsylvanica, cultivar 'Jumping Pound', is a fast-growing tree which produces good-tasting red cherries. P. sargentii, an ornamental cherry with pink flowers, comes from the Kurile Islands.

Doug mentioned that he had given a few vines of the hardy 'Beta' grape to a friend of his who planted them in an

unheated greenhouse. They overwintered and bore fruit in 1988. For blueberries he recommended 'Northsky', 'Northblue', and 'Northcountry'. Blueberries need wind shelter and a 100% peaty soil. Raised beds help, but Doug admitted he hadn't had much luck transplanting native varieties into his yard. Doug spoke admiringly of yellow currants, something he sells. The fruit is sweet and has what he termed a "tutti-frutti" taste.

He also spent a few minutes talking about plums, mentioning first of all that Prunus salicina, the Japanese plum, grows in the Kurile Islands and on Sakhalin Island just north of Japan. He cited the Japanese plum, 'Burbank' as an early bloomer, 'and Early Golden' as a high quality, early ripening Japanese plum. 'LaCrescent' and 'Methley', the latter being the earliest ripening commercial Japanese plum, are others he felt would be worth trying.

Doug has a gooseberry from Oscar Gravitis which is green and sweet. He plans to propagate it soon. Concerning raspberries, he noted that 'Redwing' ripens just a bit later for him than 'Latham'. 'Fallgold' follows 'Redwing' and was hardy even after the winter of 1985-86.

I was quite surprised to hear Doug say that purple raspberries survive and ripen for him. 'Royalty' ripens for him in late August and is a large, purple fruit with a fantastic taste. Yellowjackets love them, too. 'Brandywine', another purple, ripens September 10, but both of these are only semi-hardy.

We were all sorry to hear that black knot, a disease normally associated with plums in the Lower 48, is showing up here in Anchorage on Prunus padus, on the Amur chokeberry, and on the 'Canada Red' cherry. The ooze produced by the cankers attracts bees, which spread it far and wide.

-R. Purvis

APPLE SCIONWOOD AVAILABLE FROM WHITNEY'S O & N

A recent communication from NAFEX member Dan Whitney indicated the following amounts of apple scionwood were available for 1989 grafting. Please write or phone Bob Purvis if you are interested in ordering scionwood for use at the spring grafting workshops or for personal use. Dan has other apple cultivars but has not yet attempted to measure the amount of each available. What's listed below is those which are most suitable for Alaska. *Cost will be \$100/foot, payable to Robert Purvis.*

<u>CULTIVAR-</u>	<u>AMOUNT AVAIL.</u>	<u>CULTIVAR</u>	<u>AMOUNT AVAIL.</u>
Battleford	9'	Norcue	18'
Beacon	12'	Norda	20'
Chinese Golden Early	2'	Noret	15'
Collet	8'	Norney	15'
Dearborn's Unknown (Norland)	2'	Norson	15'
Geneva Early	15'	Oratia Beauty	Lots
Heyer #12	22'	Parkland	2'
Jerseymac	2'	Patterson	3'
July Red	5'	Red Duchess	4'
Mantet	Lots	Red Gravenstein	Lots
Noran	25'	Red June	Lots
		Rescue	25'
Stark's Earliest	8'	Viking	2'
State Fair	6'	Vista Bella	Lots

The following varieties are alive but no scionwood is available: Caravel, Novosibirskii Sweet, and Trailman.

Other varieties which Dan may have small quantities of and which inquiries about should be made to me include Breakey, Dawn, Gala, Summer Rambo, Summer Scarlet, Summer Treat, Tyrrustrup, and Roda Mantet. Please do not contact Dan directly; he is very busy at this time of year.

APPROACHES TO POMOLOGICAL PROBLEMS



FRUIT CULTURE: Its Science and Art

Kay Ryugo,
University of California, Davis
512 pp. 0-471-89191-6

This new text explains the scientific basis of horticultural practices at the same time that it familiarizes students with the current art of fruit production.

Part I covers structure and function of fruit plants. Part II deals with current cultural practices including orchard establishment and maintenance, and Part III presents numerous species' origin, history and cultural requirements.

IMPORTANT FEATURES:

- *Physiology-oriented:* Chapters 2-6 detail the physiology of buds, shoots, roots, flowers and fruits so students see whole tree physiology, not just isolated parts
- *Data-oriented:* The text cites original data so students see the relationship of research to applied practices (Ch 2-6)
- *World-oriented:* Part III covers species from all temperate zones, so students are not limited to local examples and are able to abstract from local experience
- *A comprehensive appendix includes:*
 - full color plates that illustrate deficiency symptoms, chimeras and mutations
 - a series of possible field and laboratory exercises and questions dealing with specific principles to be learned
 - a glossary of botanical and horticultural terms that help familiarize students with the jargon used by pomologists