

ALASKA NAFEX NEWSLETTER

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MEETING DATES

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

May 11 Thurs., 7 p.m. NBA
lunchroom. Tentative topic: pests and
diseases of fruit crops.

June 8 Thurs. 7 p.m. NBA
Lunchroom. Growing raspberries and
strawberries.

DON'T FORGET-- GRAFTING WORKSHOP IN FAIRBANKS

April 8, 1989, 1 p.m. 301 O'Neill
Resources Building, University of Alaska
Fairbanks, West Ridge. If you need
directions, call Pat Holloway at
474-7433 before Saturday.

MEMBER IN THE NEWS

The fruit of Ed Swanson's farm will
keep him in raspberry wine for a long,
long time. The farmer and pharmacist
planted five acres of raspberries of
various varieties last summer on his
300 acre state agricultural plot in
Talkeetna.

His plans include harvesting berries
and selling bushes. He's also planted
crabapples and his son, Karl, has planted
pine trees.

For many years the pharmacist has
been making his own wine "out of
anything", but mostly rhubarb. He

makes about 25 gallons a year, aging the
bottles two years.

Karl is interested in birch sap and is
trying to develop a birch sap industry
with the farm's natural stand of trees.

-Reprinted from Heartland Magazine
6(11):H-12.

STRAWBERRIES WORLDWIDE

Strawberries are grown in most
temperate regions with world
production approaching 2,000,000
metric tons. The U.S. is the world leader
in strawberry production with 20-25%
of the total world market. California
produces approximately 80% of the U.S.
crop, and consequently the most
important cultivars are 'Douglas',
'Chandler', 'Tufts', 'Pajaro', 'Aiko' and
'Selva'. These cultivars have the highest
yield of any location in the world
averaging 17.7 tons per acre.

Japan is the second largest producer
in the world with about 10% of the
world's production. Their yield is
approximately 7.8 tons per acre.

In the rest of the U.S. cultivar
turnover is very high because of active
breeding programs which are constantly
improving disease resistance, yield, etc.
The most commonly grown cultivars are
'Honeoye', 'Redchief', 'Guardian',
'Earliglow', 'Redcoat', 'Bounty', 'Kent',
'Gorella', and 'Senga Sengana'.

{Ed. note: in Alaska most of these
cultivars are not reliably hardy. We

grow predominantly 'Quinalt' as an annual through plastic and 'Toklat', 'Alaska Pioneer' and Sitka Hybrids' as perennials. Look for some new and improved cultivars to be released from the Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station in Fairbanks as a new breeding program is initiated this fall.] Reprinted from Fruit Varieties Journal 42(3):102-108.

FRONT AND CENTER-CLAIR LAMMERS

Chapter member Clair Lammers has been in touch with me a few times over the past two months and has written down some of the things he is testing in a very favorable microclimate close to Fairbanks. During the nine years he has kept records, it has yet to go below -32 F at his location, which is somewhere between 800 and 1100 feet above sea level.

Clair is currently growing 93 varieties of apple and applecrab trees at his location, with the 'Ranetka' crabapple being his preferred rootstock. Of these, 44 have survived three or more winters and of those, four have fruited. Those which have survived include not just the 'Nor' series apples and applecrabs like 'Heyer #12', 'Kerr', and 'Rescue' but also some apples whose suitability to Fairbanks might not be obvious: 'Crimson Beauty', 'Duchess', 'Early Harvest', 'Geneva Early', 'Honeygold', 'Jerseymac', 'Lodi', 'Livland Raspberry', 'Mantet', 'NY 651', and 'NY 652', 'Red Astrachan', 'Red Duchess', 'State Fair', 'Sweet', 'Trail', 'Tydemann Early', 'Westland' and 'Yellow Transparent'. 'Heyer #12' was ripe for him on Aug 26, followed by 'Dolgo' and 'Rescue' on September 2 and by 'Parkland' on Sept 4, 1988.

Clair's evaluations are not confined to apples. He is growing various Prunus cultivars on Prunus padus (European birdcherry) and on chokecherry trees.

Cherries currently grafted include 'Meteor', 'North Star', and 'Montmorency'; cherry plums, 'Compass', 'Sapalta' and 'Red Diamond'; and plums, 'LaCrescent', and 'Underwood'. Sand cherry, Nanking cherry, and ground cherry (Prunus fruticosa) grafts are also to be found growing on the P. padus rootstock. In 1988, Clair had Nanking cherries ripe on August 26, and sand cherries on Sept 4.

His 'Pixwell' gooseberries were ripe August 16. He reports vigorous growth on the 'Pixwells', plus Nanking and sand cherries in 1988.

For pears, he has 'Hudar' and 'Stacey' growing on Pyrus communis, St Lawrence Nursery, being the source. 'Harrow Delight' and 'Harvest Queen' are growing on OH x F.333 rootstocks; however his pears were only planted in 1988.

Concerning apricots, none but the Manchurians have survived more than one winter for him. He is currently waiting to see how two apricots, 'Montrose' and 'M2', will survive the present winter.

The most amazing thing he mentioned, however, was that several 'Concord' grapevines had overwintered 1987-88 with nothing more for protection than snow. The "bottom line", of course, will be written this May or June when he sees what has survived this winter.

-R. Purvis

CONTRIBUTIONS STILL WANTED

We still want to hear from you! Please take a few minutes to let us know what you are doing- fruit-wise- these days. Even if you are only starting, we would like to hear what you have planted. Please send short notes, articles, recipes, book reviews, WHATEVER, to the editor so we can make this a meaningful, Alaskan newsletter. -PSH

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April 23, 1989

Dear Fruit Grower:

The Alaska Chapter of the North American Fruit Explorers (NAFEX) invites members, guests, and friends to attend a Pruning Work Party on Saturday, April 29, 1989, at 1 p.m. During the approximately 2 to 3 hours of the work party, you will have an opportunity to learn both basics and fine points of pruning apple trees and possibly also currants and gooseberries. If you have never pruned before and are afraid to do so, this is a great time to learn and gain some confidence.

The work party will begin at the home of members C.D. (Andy) and Betty Anderson, 627 W. 20th Avenue, Anchorage. This is marked on the map as location #1. The Anderson home is about seven houses from the corner of 20th and Arctic, as shown on the sketch map below. There, Bob Purvis will give about half an hour of instruction on pruning before we begin to prune the Andersons' trees. We will probably leave Andersons' around 2:15 p.m. and proceed to location #2, the home of Jim and Alberta Rigsbee, 2015 Borealis (location #2). The Rigsbees have several bearing apple trees; one, a Yellow Transparent, is 25 years old and very productive, but in need of pruning. (Rigsbees' home is about a 3-5 minute walk from Andersons'.)

Our third stop will be at the fourplex, 4741 Denali (location #3), where Helen Butcher lives (apartment #1). Helen has several apple trees plus currants and gooseberries. We should be there around 3 to 3:30 p.m. The party will end around 4 p.m.

Phone numbers of these individuals are, for Andersons, 272-2971; for Rigsbees, 272-6822; for Helen Butcher, 562-2421. Although you are welcome to leave before the work party is over, it is recommended that you try to get to Andersons' at 1 p.m. to receive the instruction.

Wear sturdy, comfortable footwear that will resist water and mud if the ground is wet. Dress warmly, because there may be some standing around, and keep in mind that your clothes may get a bit dirty or run the risk of snagging on fruit spurs. Bring along a plastic bag and tie back if you want to collect scionwood from any of the trees. If you have a good pruning, or saber saw, loppers, or hand pruning shears, bring them also.

Call Bob Purvis, 345-7117h or 261-4121w, or Erik Simpson, 243-3058 if you have questions. See ya there!

Horticordially,

Bob Purvis

