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Alaska Pioneer Fruit Growers Association

Hello Fruit Growers!

Although the picture above may seem out of synch with our current season, I want to always encourage you to be thinking about the next season. Winter is when we contemplate the results from this past summer, and begin planning to make positive improvements next summer. If pollination is something on your check-list to improve next year, then I have the perfect 3-hour Zoom conference for you!

On Wednesday, October 28 from 8:00-11:00 am, there will be a series of presentations by industry professionals on managing orchard mason bees for crop pollination! Presented by the Orchard Bee Association (who knew?) this should help you develop, manage and incorporate native mason bees to improve the pollination of your fruit. Cost is \$10. Click the link for more information on [Managing Orchard Mason Bees](#).

The APFGA Board of Directors met Thursday evening to discuss how we can best proceed and honor the group's bylaws during the pandemic. Since in-person meetings will not be possible this winter, we will be making use of the Zoom platform. Our winter meetings are on the second Thursday of each month, November through March.

Consequently, our first winter Zoom meeting will be our annual membership meeting on Thursday, November 12, 2020, at 7:00 pm. It is at the November membership meeting that your board presents yearly reports to the membership and the membership votes to fill any open board positions (two-year terms). If you have an interest in serving on the board, please [email me](#).

We are beginning to consider speakers to conduct Zoom presentations for the remaining 4 meetings. If there is a topic or speaker you would like to recommend, or if you yourself are interested in giving a 50 minute presentation, please [email me](#).

The board is also planning for next year's rootstock order. This is the time of year that we reserve rootstock for the membership and what would usually be our grafting workshop next April. We will shortly be asking you about what rootstock you would like to have available. We order in bundles of 25 or 50, depending on the variety of rootstock. So if, for example, only 4 rootstock of Kumquat is requested, we would not order that unless more people wanted it.

I will send you more information and the Zoom link for the November meeting early next month. Until then, enjoy this extended fall!

All the best,

Mark Wolbers
President, APFGA

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