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**Hello Fruit Growers,**

**Often when growing fruit, it can seem that we are constantly looking for clues. Why did my apple tree not flower? How come that cherry set so much fruit this year? What bug is that? Or even, whose tracks are those? (photo of mouse tracks heading towards our Kiwi)**

**One of the main missions of the Alaska Pioneer Fruit Growers Association is to help members find answers and share information. Much of what happens to our plants is underground and is often unknown to us. If there is one thing that would improve everyone's success, it is more knowledge about what happens under our feet. It constantly amazes me how little I know about the world of nematodes, bacteria, and fungi, let alone the intricacies of soil chemistry, nutrients and uptake.**

**To help shift our knowledge in a positive direction, I have invited WSU Emeritus Professor David Granatstein to give a Zoom presentation on Sustainable Orchard Floor Management for our meeting Thursday, December 10, at 7:00 pm. David is an expert on sustainable agriculture and has much to share with us about what goes on under our fruit trees and how that can affect them. What is the best orchard floor management decision for your situation? Please, join us and find out.**

**I have also called a board meeting for Thursday, December 3 at 7:00 pm. The meeting will be by Zoom and members are welcome to sit in and listen to what is being discussed. If interested, you may click the links to see the [minutes](#) from our previous board meeting October 22, the proposed [agenda](#) for December 3, and the Zoom meeting [invitation](#).**

**I hope everyone has a wonderful and safe Thanksgiving. An event reminder and Zoom link for the program on December 10, will be sent sometime earlier that week. For now, please make sure you have it on your calendar.**

**All the best,**

**Mark Wolbers  
President, APFGA**

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