

Bainbridge Island Fruit Club

Minutes from Club Meeting of 1/15/2015

I. Call to Order: 6:34 pm and Introductions

Attendance total: 13

- Members: Darren and Kari Murphy, Tami Meader and Nick Daluiso, JoAnn Schuh, Beth Harter, Ben Skotheim, Deb Ruchnick, and Judy Willott.
- First Time Attendees: Brian Stahl, Brian MacWhorter (both filled out BIFC Enrollment Forms), and Erik and Maia Ostrom.

II. Old Business

- a. November Minutes—Beth
 - i. Minutes were unanimously approved
- b. Treasurers Report—Beth
 - i. Current Balance:\$229.84
 - ii. \$88 expense to WCFS—15 current members
 - iii. Treasurer's Report was unanimously approved, moved by Joanne, seconded Judy
- c. BIFC New Web-site & Access to WCFS Website & Forum—Tami and Darren
 - i. Tami noted that club members can access the BIFC website using the following password (BIFC!). She noted we currently don't have a lot on the website...but this will change as we post more information.
 - ii. Darren and several other members cited the WFCS web-site as a great source of information on how to grow and care for fruit. Highly recommend that all new members access the website and go through the various sections. Beth also noted that the WFCS website was surprisingly easy to navigate and has found it very helpful.
- d. Officer Vacancies
 - i. Darren noted that we still have two club vacancies (Secretary and one of the three Board Members). Asked that current members consider volunteering for one of these positions. For tonight's meeting, Kari Murphy served as the club secretary.

III. New Business

- a. Upcoming Events
 - i. Northwest Flower and Garden Show—Darren
 - ✓ Darren noted that this year's NW Flower and Garden show runs from 2/11-15/15, at the Seattle Convention Center. While a little pricey, they frequently have some great speakers and displays (including Raintree Nursery). He recommended going

on-line and checking out the list of speakers/displays to see if you might want to attend this year.

ii. PFC Spring Grafting Show—Darren

- ✓ The PFC will be holding their annual spring grafting show on 3/14/15, 10am-4pm @ Silverdale Community Center. Great place to obtain scion wood and rootstock at reasonable prices. The BIFC will be helping out by donating some scion wood. Darren also hopes to sell some plants/cuttings at the show as a fund raiser for the BIFC. As such, BIFC members should be thinking about what plants/cuttings they could bring to the show on March 14th.

iii. 4-H Grafting Workshop--Darren

- ✓ The PFC has done a grafting workshop on the Island for the past 5 years or so for the local 4-H Group. They have volunteered to help out again. Would be great if some BIFC members also attended. Great way to learn/try out your grafting skills. The meeting is also at the BI Grange Hall, 6:30-8:30pm on 3/16/15.

iv. Home Orchard Society (HOS)—Darren

- ✓ Darren noted that this year's HOS show is 3/22/15, 10am-4pm, @ Clackamas County Fairgrounds, Canby, Oregon. It is the largest "grafting" event in the Pacific Northwest...with hundreds/thousands (of apples, pear, plums, peach, cherry, grape, and fig varieties available for attendees. Darren noted that once attendees pay the entrance fee (which is \$20 or less, depending on whether you become a HOS member not), all scion wood is free (although they recommend you only take one cutting for each variety you select).
- ✓ JoAnn suggested later that we might want to carpool down together for the event.

b. Future BIFC Meeting Topics

i. February (2/19/15)—Scion Wood Preparation

- ✓ For our next meeting, The Seattle Tree Fruit Society or STFS (another WCFC chapter like the BIFC) will be doing a scion wood preparation and labeling workshop for our club.
- ✓ Lori Brakken and Laure Jansen (STFS members) have been doing a "traveling" scion wood project for 2 years...with the intent to share and collect scion wood from the various chapters.
- ✓ The STFS has purchased a machine to help with the labeling of individual scion wood cuttings. Lori/Laure also will be discussing alternatives for sealing the ends of scion wood so the cuttings don't dry out.
- ✓ Overall, BIFC members are encouraged to bring their scion wood cuttings to the February meeting. This can be cuttings from apple, pear, plum, peach, and cherry (normally about 9 inches long and about ¼ inch wide...in other words, about the size/

shape of a long pencil). Members can also bring cuttings of figs and grapes...although the latter should be 12-18 inches if possible.

ii. March Meeting (3/19/14)—Fruit Tree Pruning

- ✓ David Harris will provide some do and don't of pruning...a topic of interest to many of the BIFC members. We also hope to schedule a weekend event...to do some hands on demonstration...perhaps at the Johnsons Farm.

iii. Pest Controls—Speaker TBD

c. Friends of the Farms (FOF)—Establish Committee to Explore Future Use of Johnson's Farm)

- i. Darren noted that the FOF is asking for assistance in caring for the Johnson Farm's old orchard, which is mostly Red Delicious apples, various pears, and some plums and nut trees.
- ii. Brian MacWhorter (Butler Green Farms) pointed out that he is a member of the FOF Board and would be interested in organizing the BIFC's activities at the Johnson Farm. He went on to give a brief history of the farm...which was previously owned by Harvey Johnson, who dreamed of making his fruit trees a demonstration orchard/teaching opportunity for the community.
- iii. Brian also noted that the City of Bainbridge owns the farm (with the FOF managing it). He added that it is very unlikely that the city would ever sell the land for later development, as it is their intent to keep the property in some form of agricultural activity. Nevertheless, before the BIFC puts a lot of time and energy into the farm, he suggests we talk to the FOF executive director (Wendy Tyner). Darren added that we would also need to run our plans by the WCFS board to ensure there are no conflicts/insurance issues.
- iv. Eric Ostrom asked if we might want to try planting new trees in addition to or instead of trying to restore the old orchard. Darren noted that this is definitely a possibility...although it would be nice to see how much of the older trees we could restore or recreate into new varieties through grafting. He went on to note there has been some effort at planning replacement trees...although most of these have failed due to poor rootstock selection (too small) and anthracnose damage.

IV. Break

V. Presentation: Fruit Propagation Through Grafting and Cuttings with Darren Murphy

- i. Darren described some simple techniques for doing whip grafts using the Omega grafting tool, with attendees doing some hands-on grafting of apple cuttings. He also described what type of wood makes the best scion wood, how to collect/store, and when to take cuttings and then later graft.

- ii. In addition to fruit tree cuttings, Darren talked about how to grow currant, josta berry, gooseberry, grape, and fig plants from cuttings, with attendees getting some samples to take home.

VI. Meeting Adjourned: 8:31 pm

REMINDER: BRING YOUR SCION WOOD TO FEBRUARY'S MEETING. WE WILL BE DOING A SWAP.