

Department of
Horticulture

MICHIGAN
STATE
UNIVERSITY

COMPACT FRUIT TREE

ROOTSTOCK BEHAVIOR

SPUR TYPES

INDUCED DWARFING

CULTURAL PRACTICES

THE INTERNATIONAL DWARF FRUIT TREE ASSOCIATION

No.3 April 1988 Prepared by Ronald L. Perry

APR 14 1988

31st Annual Conference Wrap-up

Some 630 people ventured to the Hershey Lodge & Conference Center in Pennsylvania in March, to take part in the 31st annual IDFTA conference. And as in so many past meetings, the speakers and tour hosts made the event a great success. Traditional **"Thank you's" must go out to so many of our Pennsylvania friends**, for their untiring efforts. Special thanks go out to **Dr. Rob Crassweller and Ms. Mary Sue Shaw**. Rob was chairperson of the orchard tour which ran very smoothly thanks to help from PSU Adams County Extension agent Tom Piper, Adams County Nursery staff Phil Baugher, John Baugher, and Tom Callahan, and Dr. George Green, PSU Fruit Lab. Additionally, many thanks go out to the farm hosts R & L Fruit Co., Don Trostel, Myles and Neil Starner. Thanks must also go to whoever was in-charge of the weather, which blessed us with a beautiful sunny day. It rained for "40 days and 40 nights" starting the following day!! Mary Sue Shaw worked tirelessly for all those who went on the two days of "Ladies" tours to Hershey and Lancaster Co.

As usual the 35 speakers are to be congratulated for giving excellent presentations and helping to keep our tightly packed schedule "in-tact". I am in receipt of most of the manuscripts, and I hope to have the proceedings available to all **1988 IDFTA paid members** by June 1. I mention this only to remind everyone that only paid members are eligible to receive a copy of the proceedings!

Thanks to Pierre Phillion:

We want to extend our many thanks to Pierre Phillion, for filling in as Mr. Maillard's interpreter while attending the conference. Pierre Herman, Mr. Maillard's employer, informed us shortly prior to the conference that business and personal matters required his utmost attention and prevented his departure from France. Mr. Phillion, IDFTA Board Member from Huntingdon, Quebec, consented to read Mr. Maillard's english translated manuscripts, present his slides and overhead transparencies and interpret questions and answers. We appreciate Mr. Phillion's efforts in communicating to the audience Mr. Maillard's unique system of the "Castang Axe" system. His hard work and efforts are appreciated by all who were in attendance.

Distinguished Service Awards:

Many business matters of interest to this organization were handled at this past meeting. Our **Annual Distinguished Service awards** were presented to five deserving individuals;

Dr. Robert Carlson, Okemos, MI, USA

Dr. Raymond Granger, St. Jeans, Quebec, Canada

Dr. Loren Tukey, Penn State Univ., Univ. Park, PA, USA

Mr. Harry Black, Thurmont, MD, USA

Mr. Pierre Herman, Bergerac, France

Retiring/New Board Members:

Much appreciation was shown to two members of the Board of Directors for their long devoted service to this organization who decided to resign their positions. The **Board Members** deciding to step down are; **Mr. Bill Austin, Hartford, MI, USA, after 12 years service** and **Mr. Joe Garrett, Versailles, KY, USA, after 13 years service**. Elected by the membership to replace them are **Mr. Darrel Oaks, Lyndonville, NY, USA** and **Mr. Harold Thome, Comstock Park, MI, USA**. I'll have information on their backgrounds in the upcoming NL. A change in the By Laws, 1985, limits Board members to serve a maximum of 3, three year terms (12 yrs.).

Rootstock Research Committee:

The committee, Chaired by **Elwin Hardy, Hollis, NH**, and recorded by **Sec. Dr. Roy Simons, Urbana, IL** distributed over **\$19,000** among proposed research projects. The total funds available amounts to a **\$10,000** reduction compared to the last several years, reflecting a **50 %** drop in direct contributions to the Rootstock Research Fund over the last few years.

Executive Secretary and Treasurer Resign:

Ann and I submitted our resignations to the Board of Directors for service to this organization, effective November 30, 1988. A search committee chaired by **Harold Schooley, Simcoe, Ontario** has been formed to fill the positions. The Board of Directors is seeking to reorganize the two positions by forming an **Exec. Sec./Treasurer** position which would administrate the daily business matters of the association; and to form an **Educational Sec./Coordinator** position. The latter position would be responsible for the educational or technical aspects, ie, NL, Annual Conf. program, Orchard Tours, etc.

Both Ann and I regret leaving our positions because we have gained so much from the many new friends we have made. We have both grown so much in the experience of administrating such a large and dynamic association. Our reasons for stepping down are largely associated with our desire to spend more time with our family and our jobs. Ann teaches school part time and I am an Associate Professor of Horticulture at MSU. I will continue to be an active member of the IDFTA because I feel strongly that we still have lots to learn in this business of growing and managing high density orchards. And, while our local and regional grower and research organizations are helpful, IDFTA continues to provide the vehicle and format to tap into a much wider source in the pool of knowledge and new ideas.

Future Meetings:

The Board of Directors, approved of the following schedule during their Feb.27-28 meeting:

June 19-22 Summer Orchard Tour....Annapolis Valley, Nova Scotia

*** More info below.....**

**March 5-9, 1989 32nd Annual Conference...Fresno, Calif.
(chairperson, Walter Krause,**

June 1989 Summer Orchard Tour....West Virginia

March 1990 33rd Annual Conference....Penticton, British Columbia

Tentative Schedule:(yet to be confirmed)

Annual Conferences:

1991 New York

1992 England

1993 Michigan

Summer Orchard Tours:

1990, 1991, 1992.....???

As you can see by the above tentative schedule, the board members are in needfor input as to interests in possible locations for annual meetings and summer tours. Contact me or any of the board members if you or a grower group is interested in hosting one of the above activities.

1988 IDFTA Orchard Summer Tour

Annapolis Valley, Nova Scotia

When:Sun, June 19 - Tues, June 21 (optional non-orchard tour 6/22)

Where: Headquartered at Acadia Univ., Wolfville, N.S.

The **Nova Scotia Fruit Growers' Association** are looking forward to hosting the summer tour of IDFTA. Chairperson of the host committee is Mr.George Foote, assisted by members, Bill Craig, Charlie Embree, Peter Van Oostrum, Gail Parker, Susan Myrna-Blenkhorn, Allister Marshall, Ann Hutten, Dave Power, Victor Moses, David Crowe, John Arnold, Elaine Ells, Gerry Kennie and Susan Corkum (sec./manager of the association).

Nova Scotia's apple production is centered in the Annapolis Valley with just over 10,000 acres of apples with an annual production near 3 million bushels. The tour will be centered at Acadia University which is just seven miles east of the Kentville Agriculture Centre. As Acadia University is centered in the heart of the apple producing region the majority of the orchard stops will be reached in 15-20 minutes with the longest bus ride just over 30 minutes.

Getting There:

Nova Scotia can be reached by air, road, or boat. An international airport is located at Halifax, which is an hour's drive from Wolfville, where Acadia University is located. Those wishing to drive to Nova Scotia can do so and may wish to take the Yarmouth to Portland or Bar Harbour, Maine car ferries or the St. John, New Brunswick to Digby ferry. It is a four hour drive from Yarmouth to Wolfville and 1 1/2 hour drive from Digby. The drive from the Nova Scotia-New Brunswick border to Wolfville will take four hours.

We also have a number of camp grounds available as well as motels in the area. All of this will be outlined in our registration package which we expect to have ready for the mail by the end of April.

For further information, please feel free to contact Suzanne Corkum, Secretary Manager of the Nova Scotia Fruit Grower's Association, Blair House, Kentville Agricultural Centre, Kentville, N.S. Phone: 902-678-0533.

SUNDAY, JUNE 19th

Sunday, June 19th will be registration day, and a reception is planned for the evening on the campus of **Acadia University**.

MONDAY, JUNE 20th

Four orchard stops are being scheduled for Monday, with one of the stops at the Agriculture Canada Research Station in Kentville. At the Research Station you will have the opportunity to view a 1985 NC 140 apple rootstock trial as well as other rootstock and management system trials being conducted by Dr. David Crowe and Charlie Embree. One of the stops will be at Peter Van Oostrum's to view his numerous rootstock and variety combinations. The two other stops will be at commercial blocks of orchard on size controlling rootstock.

TUESDAY, JUNE 21st

Six stops are being scheduled with one of the stops at Cameron and Lawrence Spurrs. The 1979 tour stopped here, and you will have the opportunity to see a number of rootstock and variety combinations as well as Cameron's central leader pruning. Of interest will be a 2 acre planting where four planting systems: 155, high density, Tatura V Trellis, and French Axis are being evaluated by a young grower. The other stops will include a young and mature orchard on size controlling rootstock.

Suzanne Corkum

New Idea on Spreader Material

We've seen the use of many materials for spreading branches on young fruit trees. The arsenal ranges from toothpicks, clothes-pins, wooden sticks, thick wire, plastic sticks, electrical tape, suspended weights (cement, dirt sacks, rocks, lead filled plastic, etc.), to tying down to stakes and "W" clips. I thought I'd pass on another idea I noted in the Feb. issue of The Fruit Grower magazine of Maidstone, Kent, England. A grower was having success and beginning to market a strip of polyethylene netted plastic similar to products used for bird netting. A strip might be 3 ft(1 m) long by 2-3"(5-7cm) wide attach at one end to spurs or a limb and another to a limb or stake. Little tying is needed since the material clings to "everything"!!

High Density Symposium

For those of you interested in the latest in research results from around the world on High Density fruit culture, a scientific meeting will be convening at "Flevopolder" in the Netherlands, Aug. 29 - Sept. 2, 1988. Contact Dr. Bob Wertheim, Wilhelminadorp, NL, or me for more information.

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No.2 February 1988 Prepared by Ronald L. Perry

The 31st. Annual IDFTA Conference

Theme: Customizing A System For Your Orchard

Where: The Hershey Lodge & Convention Center, Hershey, PA.

When: February 28, - March 2

Registration: Don't forget to fill out and send the conference Registration form by Feb. 18 (post mark date), after which there is a substantial penalty for late registration. We depend heavily on pre-registration to help us in planning for the meeting. You may pick up your packets or register at the conference Sunday Feb. 28, 2-8 P.M., Mon. Feb. 29, 8 A.M. to 5 P.M., and Tues. Mar.1, 9 A.M. to 12 noon.

Things to do at Hershey: If you want to take a break during the intensive educational sessions, Hershey and the surrounding area has plenty to offer in diversions.

The Hershey Lodge offers: Game room, Exercise room, Indoor pool, Whirpool, Saunas, Movie Theater

A sampling nearby offers: Cocoa Racquetball, Indoor tennis at the Hershey Racquet Club, ZooAmerica, Hershey's Chocolate World, Founders Hall

Don't forget the Ladies Tour that Mary Sue Shaw is leading for Mon. and Tues. An itinerary was included in the last newsletter (Jan.). Please let us know if you plan to join the tour.

The Educational Program:

We are excited about this year's conference. Note that because of last year's success with the open forum at the end of the conference, we have decided to expand it this year to include an hour at the end of the first day. We will run it similar to last year by providing you cards to write down your questions.

Changes in the upcoming program will reflect our recent change in plans for the upcoming summer orchard tour and the 32nd annual conference. On Tuesday morning at 10:50, Walter Krause will talk about our 32nd annual conference being held March 1988 at Fresno, California.

March 87

Our 1988 Summer Tour will be in Nova Scotia which will be described by a Nova Scotia host in the same time slot as 11:00 A.M. Tues. - Virginia Ebers, 32nd annual conference in Grand Rapids, MI. (see "Plans" below).

I recently received a VHS video tape from Mr. Hiroo Koike, our guest speaker from Japan at last year's Toronto meeting. Mr. Koike was very kind to send the tape which describes in detail, steps and method in training and pruning his version of the Vertical Axe system from year 1 through the bearing tree. It is an excellent tape which I plan, with the help of our Pennsylvania hosts, to show in the Chocolate Lobby on breaks.

Don't forget to sign up for the Orchard Tour for March 2. Dr. Robert Crassweller and our Pennsylvania hosts have put together what I'm sure will be an enjoyable day.

If you are travelling by auto to Hershey, note the small map in back of this newsletter. For those of you travelling by air, the Hershey Lodge & Conv. Center provides limousine service for free from the Harrisburg, PA, Airport. Even if you didn't make prior arrangements, call 533-3311 upon arrival at the airport, and you will be picked up. They operate a courtesy vehicle from 6 A.M. to 11:30 P.M. daily for Lodge guests.

The banquet on Tuesday evening will be enjoyable. Our Master of Ceremonies will be our past president, Tom Chudleigh, Milton, Ontario, Canada. He will lead us through the traditional roll call and help our current President, Evan Milburn, with the awards presentations. Included in the awards this year will be the recognizing of two long time members of the board of directors who are stepping down. They are Mr. Bill Austin, Hartford, Michigan, and Mr. Joseph Garrett, Versailles, Kentucky. They both have served tirelessly over a number of years, and we wish them well. Our board members work as volunteers and receive very little recognition for their efforts.

"A Change in Plans"

As noted in the before mentioned change in the educational program for the 31st Conference, the IDFTA Board of Directors, recently altered and confirmed our immediate plans. This is only a slight departure from the announcement in the October 1987 newsletter.

Summer Orchard Tours

1988----Nova Scotia

June 19-21 (Tour June 20 & 21)

More info at the conference & in the next Newsletter

1989----West Virginia

Annual Conference

1988---- Hershey, PA.

1989---- Fresno, California

1990----(unconfirmed)

Grand Rapids, Michigan

Penticton, British Columbia

IDFTA Board Members - Up Close

Jim Eckert, Eckert Orchards, Inc., R. 5, Box 325, Belleville, Illinois, 62220, Phone (618)235-3876. Jim's family has attended IDFTA meetings regularly since the organization's inception. He began his interest in the early 70's, and he is currently in his second year on the board. He is 43 years of age, and he received a Bachelor's degree in Agriculture from Univ. of Ill., Masters in Horticulture from Michigan State, and a law degree from the Univ. of Ill. He joined the family farm business in 1970. Jim is responsible for the farming activities while his cousin Lory Eckert manages sales, marketing, and advertising. The Eckerts are primarily apple and peach growers with some investment in strawberry, brambles, and Christmas trees. Their business involves all aspects of PYO in the St. Louis area, roadside marketing and the wholesale apple business.

Dennis Courtier, Rt. 4, Box 18, Lake City, Minnesota 55041, Phone (612)-345-2305. Dennis is president and owner of Pepin Heights Orchards, Inc. Pepin Heights farms about 300 acres of apples on the bluff overlooking the Mississippi River Valley near Lake City, MN. In addition to fresh fruit, they produce fresh apple cider and sparkling apple cider on a store-direct basis.

In addition to wholesale activities, they have 25 acres of pick your own strawberries and a seasonal farm market at the packinghouse in Lake City. They also recently assumed management of a 100 acre pick your own orchard and berry farm in Rosemount, MN, a southern suburb of Minneapolis.

Dennis was elected in 1987 to the IDFTA board and he is past president of the Minnesota Apple Growers Association and currently serves on its board of directors. He has served as a director of the Minnesota Grown Project with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture. He has been a member of the IDFTA for about twelve years.

New Apple Book Available

There is a new book that has been published in India, "Apples: Production Technology and Economics" by S.M. Kanwar, published by Tata-McGraw-Hill Publishing Co., Delhi. "Although written in the context of apple growing in India, most of the chapters have a universal application. The latest world research on all aspects of apple production has been included in the book." Cost: \$45 U.S. 928 pages hardcover.

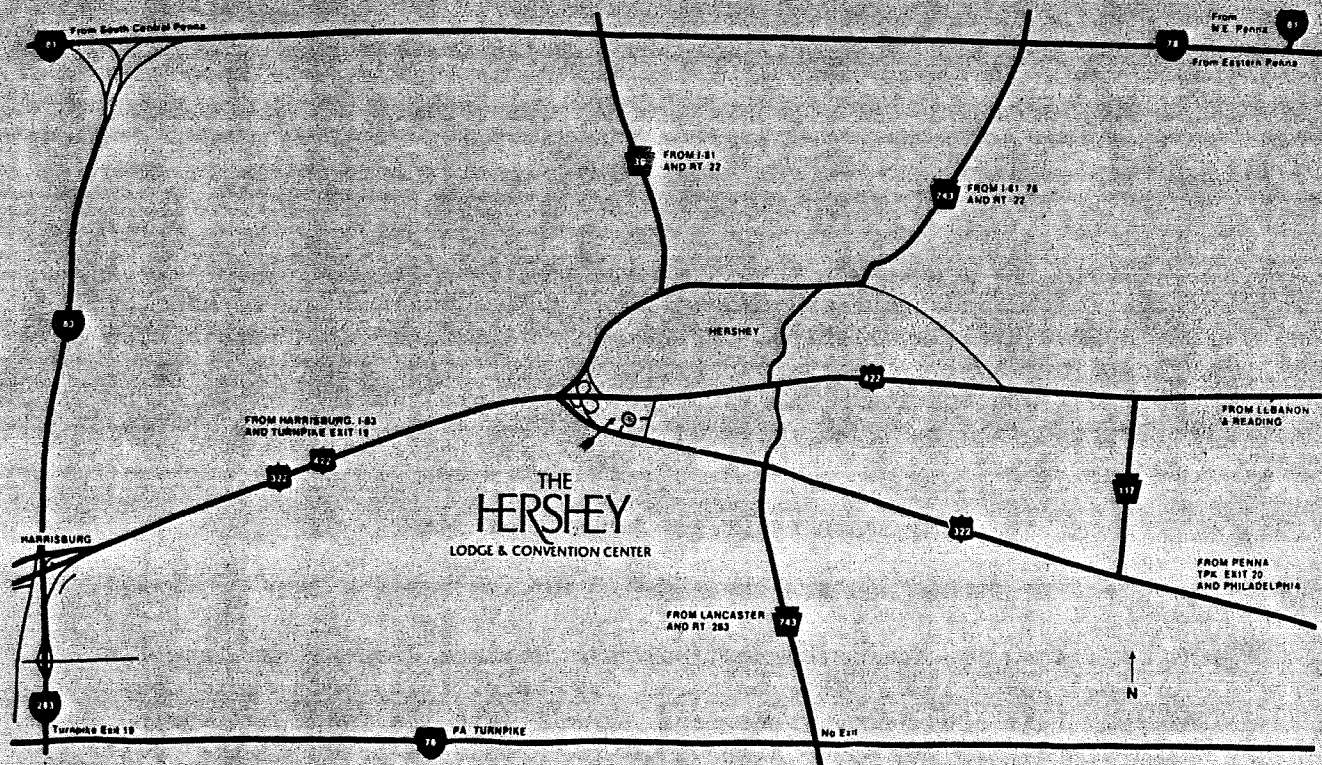
Temperatures Affect Peach Root Growth

Dr. Dick Okie and A.P. Nyczepir, USDA-ARS Fruit & Nut Research Lab, Byron, Georgia, recently presented a most interesting paper at the American Society for Horticulture Science annual meeting in Florida, Nov. 1987. They compared the sensitivity of rootstocks, Bailey, Tzim Pee Tao, Nemaguard, Lovell and Halford to various temperatures in storage. After 5 weeks, Nemaguard produced the most roots at the higher temperatures: mean root growth at 16 C were Nemaguard (2.4), Tzim Pee Tao (0.3), Lovell (0.2), Halford (0.1), and Bailey (0). The researchers suggest that there could be a

relationship between root growth at higher temperatures and ring nematode activity. Their studies concern the Peach Tree Short Lofe problems in the southeast U.S., where ring nematodes have been implicated as part of the cause.

Scion rooting of plums avoids "Brown-line"

In the same meeting, Dr. Jim Cummins, Geneva, N.Y., along with co-authors, reported the findings of research on Stanley plum. All own rooted and 'Stanley' plum trees grafted on Stanley rooted trees survived after 14 years, while 25-75% of Stanley trees on *P. domestica* and *P. cerasifera* rootstock were killed by Tomato ring spot virus (Union-Brown-line). Several 14 year-old Stanley diseased trees on the rootstocks were treated with IBA (Indole Butyric Acid) above the union and covered with soil (mounded 4 inches above). The mound was maintained for 3 years to encourage rooting, and all treated trees survived. Six untreated trees died or showed steady decline.



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No.1 January 1988 Prepared by Ronald L. Perry

The 31st. Annual IDFTA Conference

Theme: "Customizing A System For Your Orchard"

Where: The Hershey Lodge & Convention Center, Hershey, PA.

When: Feb. 28-March 2, 1988

Enclosures: Conference Registration Form, Hotel Reservation Form, & Program

Note on the hotel reg. form that reservations should be made prior to Feb. 1 after which it is taken on space available basis. Also note that the hotel will provide courtesy limousine service if you fill in the form. Take advantage of the cost savings and fill out and send the Conference Registration form by Feb. 18 (post mark date), after which there is a substantial penalty for late registration. Pre-registration is very important for planning in order to know for how many we should prepare.

How many times have you gotten into an argument over the best rootstock, scion, orchard design system combination? How often have you been to a meeting or conference and some so-called expert says that rootstock/scion combination is best? You and I both know that performance is dependent on factors more than just rootstock/scion selection. This year's conference offers to be an exciting one, having a theme within a theme. Some 35 speakers from largely North America and a few from Europe will share their experiences with various factors that make a productive and profitable orchard. There have been questions recently about the popular, "French or Vertical Axe System". A few hours will be devoted in the educational program to learning in detail the intricacies of the Axe.

We have invited experts who will describe the French Axe as developed by Lespinase. And we will have a commercial fruit grower and nurseryman from France who has modified the axe system to make it productive and profitable for him. Pierre Herman from Bergerac, France, will give both economical and cultural insights. Mr. Herman has offered to pay the travel of his orchard and nursery production manager, Arsene Maillard, and in a speech, translate his detailed steps in developing the axe orchard and managing the bearing orchard.

Coincidentally, the French Axe, is one of the few apple systems being compared in an orchard systems trial in 5 European countries. Dr. Siviero Sansavini, University of Bologna, Italy, is one of the host cooperators of this trial. He will be on hand to discuss the merits and negative aspects of the axe, palmette, and other systems. He has also consented to discuss peach systems and rootstocks in Italy.

So much for a few highlights of the educational meeting. There will be many other activities that you should be aware of going on at Hershey. The conference opens Sunday evening. For you Sunday travelers Dr. Steve Blizzard, University of West Virginia, will give an entertaining orchard slide-travelogue of South Africa. Note the Registration times and location in the program.

The educational meeting begins Monday (Feb. 28) morning, extends through the evening with concurrent stone fruit and pome fruit sessions, and concludes

on Tuesday with talks until 4 PM. Dr. Rob Crassweller has arranged an interesting day-long orchard tour for Wednesday. We thank the 3 orchardists, Adams County Nursery, and the PSU Fruit Lab for taking time to host us.

Orchard Tour Schedule

Split into two groups. The following is an example for one group.

- 7:45 AM Lv. Hershey Conv. Ctr. & travel to Adams Co.
- 9-10:00 AM Adams County Nursery
- 10:10-11:15 AM R&L Orchards (Mark Rice)
(2 Pruning stops: Spur Delicious Central Leader (CL) & French Axe System)
- 11:30-11:55 AM Fruit Research Lab
NC 140 Trials
- 12:00-1:00 Lunch-Biglerville Firehall
- 1:15-2:15 Mountain View Orchards (Don Trostel)
(2 Pruning stops: Paulared/M7 and Del./ M9 Trellis)
- 2:30-3:30 Starners' Orchard (Myles Starnier)
(2 Pruning stops: Trellis training, led by L.D. Tukey and pruning 25 year-old CL Romes by Neil Starnier)
- 3:30-5:00 Travel and return to Hershey Conv. Ctr.

Ladies Tour Schedule

Mary Sue Shaw has enthusiastically organized a great time for anyone who would rather tour than sit in the meeting. Please fill out the tear-away form at the bottom of the page and return it if you are interested in joining her.

Mary Sue has organized 2 tours for Monday and Tuesday of Hershey and Lancaster County, respectively. Pay fees at the regist. desk by Sun or Mon AM.

Tour 1 - Hershey, PA. Monday Feb. 29 (Cost \$12.00 for Buffet Luncheon)

- 9:30 Meet Conv. Lobby travel by cars to Founders Hall (Memorial to Milton & Catherine Hershey)
- 9:45-10:45 Orientation Film & Tour of Founders Hall
- 11:30 Luncheon at Hotel Hershey with its Old World charm & Mediterranean styling, we will dine in the circular dining room, adorned with stained glass windows and overlooking formal gardens
- 1:00 PM Hershey Chocolate World, a riding tour explaining the making of chocolate from "bean to bar" and specialty shops with a chocolate theme.
- 2:30 PM Return to Hershey Conv. Ctr.

Tour 2 - Lancaster County Tuesday, March 1 (Cost \$22.00 bus, guides, & lunch)

- 9:00 Meet Conv. Lobby -travel by bus 45 minutes
- 9:45-11:15 Guided tour of the Amish Farm House - "A respectfully conducted lecture & tour through a 10 room Amish house & typical Penn. Dutch farm in operation." You will learn history, religion, customs & way of life of the "wonderful plain people."
- 11:15-12:15 Guided bus tour through Amish country
- 12:30-2:30 Lunch at "Plain & Fancy Farm Restaurant" and visit gift shops, museums, & outlets
- 3:30 Return to Hershey Conv. Ctr.

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Ladies Tour

I (We) _____ (name) would like to sign up for Ladies:
Tour 1 _____ (# persons)
Tour 2 _____ (#)

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THE INTERNATIONAL DWARF FRUIT TREE ASSOCIATION

No. 4 Oct. 1988 Prepared by Ronald L. Perry

This growing season flew by! As you've probably been wondering, where have been all the newsletters, proceedings, updates on happenings in the organization? I apologize for the lack of communications. It seems that this year my research efforts took an awful lot out of what extra time I had to spend on IDFTA. It is an example of the principal reason for my needing to step down as the Executive Secretary. As you probably know, the Board of Directors at the last meeting confirmed the hiring of two new people to take over from my wife and Treasurer, Ann, and me. Dr. Howard A. (Jack) Rollins will be taking over as the new educational director, and Mr. Charles J. Ax, Jr. will be taking the position of business director as of December 1, 1988. Some information on their backgrounds follows:

Howard A. (Jack) Rollins, Jr.

Married with 4 children

B.S. in Horticulture from Univ. of Connecticut

M.S. " " " Univ. of New Hampshire

PhD. from Ohio State in 1954

1954-56 Assoc. Prof. at Virginia Polytechnic University

1956-58 Extension Director of Tree Fruits

1957-1967 Prof., V.P.I.

1967-70 Dept. Head, V.P.I.

1970-85 Dept. Chairman, Ohio State University

1985-Present Prof. in Extension Programs and Tree Fruits, Winchester Fruit Research Lab., Winchester, Virginia

Charles J. Ax, Jr.

Married, 3 children

B.S. in Education, 1963 from Florida Southern University

J.D. in 1966 from Vanderbilt

3 years active duty in Army

Came to Snyder County, PA. in 1971

Began practicing law (general law)

Shortly after coming to Snyder County, bought a farm

1977 started planting fruit trees (40 acres in tree fruit, 6 acres strawberries, 1 acre blueberries, some raspberries)

Farm is managed by wife, Paulette, and son Charles III

My wife and I have spent several hours with both gentlemen through the summer and fall in preparing for the transition. The new address for

correspondence beginning Dec. 1, 1988 will be:

IDFTA
14 South Main St.
Middleburg, PA.
USA 17842
Telephone: (717)837-1551

Thanks to Michigan

Michigan State University and the Department of Horticulture have been proud to serve as the IDFTA's birthplace. Excerpts from a letter by President Evan Milburn to the MSU administration eloquently express the membership's heartfelt thanks.

"Since 1958 the growers of Michigan and Michigan State University have nurtured and guided this organization so that it now consists of some 1500 members from the North American Continent, as well as from abroad. A brief look into its history shows the first Dwarf Fruit Tree meeting was organized and held near Hartford, MI. It continued to meet in various locations in Michigan until 1983. Its first and second presidents were from your state, as well as Dr. Robert F. Carlson of M.S.U., who served as its first Executive Secretary. With the utmost encouragement, cooperation and support from the Department of Horticulture of M.S.U. Dr. Carlson's dedicated work led this organization to be known world wide for gathering and dispursing information on rootstocks, planting designs, and pruning systems, thereby changing its name to the International Dwarf Fruit Tree Association.....

The IDFTA membership, Board of Directors, and officers wish to express their sincere gratitude to the growers of Michigan and in particular the Department of Horticulture for the very existence of this organization. Your futuristic insight, complete support, and guidance over the years have made IDFTA one of the most elite and respected horticultural organizations in the world today. For this, Michigan can be proud."

Proceedings of the 1988 Conference

The proceedings, Vol. 21 Compact Fruit Tree were mailed to all 1988 paid members of IDFTA. If you have not received a copy, it is probably because you have not paid your 1988 dues, or because of a "foul-up" in mailing. Historically, we lose 1 to 2% through postal problems.

Please contact us by mail or by phone if you did not receive a proceedings, or if you feel that there may be an error in our records. After Nov. 30, 1988 you will need to contact Mr. Charles J. Ax, Jr. at the new IDFTA mailing address mentioned earlier in this newsletter.

Dr. Sansavini included his paper on peaches in Italy in Vol. 21, but he was not able to submit his paper on the European Apple Systems Trial. He assured me that it will be submitted for printing in Vol 22.

Summer Tours

The approximately 140 of us who ventured to Nova Scotia for the summer orchard tour in June enjoyed the trip and the opportunity to see orchard growing in Nova Scotia. Many who visited several years ago, found that apple growing had made fine strides in the area. The Nova Scotia Fruit Growers host committee provided a memorable tour and were gracious hosts. We wish to thank

Mr. George Foote, Chairperson of the host committee, as well as Bill Craig, Charlie Embree, Peter Van Oostrum, Gail Parker, Susan Myrna-Blenkhorn, Allister Marshall, Ann Hutten, Dave Power, Victor Moses, David Crowe, John Arnold, Elaine Ells, Gerry Kennie, and Susan Corkum, Secretary/Manager of the association for their fantastic efforts. The Lobster picnic by the water on the concluding evening was very picturesque and provided us with a pleasant memory of our visit to Nova Scotia.

We are looking forward to the 1989 summer tour to be held in West Virginia and hosted by our new Educational Director, Dr. Jack Rollins and co-hosted by Dr. Tara Baugher. More information on this event will be included in upcoming newsletters.

32nd Annual Conference

We are currently working on the plans for the 1989 IDFTA winter meeting.

**Location: Centre Plaza Holiday Inn
2233 Ventura St.
Fresno, CA. 93721**

When: March 5-9, 1989

The Centre Plaza is a beautiful Holiday Inn in downtown Fresno. Fresno has an airport that handles an array of commercial airlines. The local committee to host our group is chaired by Walter Krause (IDFTA Board Member), and includes committee members Ron Metzler, Gary Kozuki, Keith Swinger, Mary Krause, Scott Johnson, and Jim LaRue, among others. This will be a big job for this crew, so make their efforts worthwhile and **plan to attend**.

Thus far, speakers who have agreed to be on the program include Dr. Stuart Tustin, DSIR, Havelock North, New Zealand, Dr. Amnon Erez, Volcani Institute, Israel, Dr. Bob Stebbins, Oregon State Univ., and Johan Nicolai, Belgium. A list of speakers and topics will be developed in the upcoming newsletters.

Dr. Tustin has agreed to address the topic of sunburn, training/pruning systems and cultivars. With the heat and drought in 1988, this topic is at the top of many orchardists lists from Maine to California. Dr. Erez, who was on our program 10 years ago will discuss new concepts related to peach production and training systems.

The host committee is working hard to put together an excellent 2-day tour which will include visits to raisin and fresh fruit packing plants, the U.C. Research Station in Parlier and traditional/non-traditional orchard production systems. We'll be there during and just after bloom which ought to contrast our past snowy, wintery scenes.

To assist you in your travel planning the format will be:

- Sunday March 5: Evening program
- Monday March 6: Educational Meeting
- Tuesday March 7: Orchard Tours
- Wednesday March 8: Educational Meeting/Banquet
- Thursday March 9: Orchard Tours

Other airport/cities besides Fresno, and out of which major interstate airlines fly direct include Los Angeles, San Francisco, Sacramento (150 miles N.), and San Jose (140 miles N.W.).

The 4th Symposium on High Density Plantings Flevohof, The Netherlands

Along with a number of North American horticulture colleagues, I had the

opportunity to attend the High Density symposium in The Netherlands in August. Over 100 scientists participated in the 5-day meeting which included about 5 days of orchard tours to private orchards, Wilhelminadorp and Wageningen research facilities. A proceedings from the conference will be available to members of The International Society for Horticultural Science within one year from its headquarters in The Netherlands. For further information on ISHS, contact me.

There were many fine papers presented from all over the world, and it would be difficult to highlight it all in this tabloid. I will try to point out some interesting aspects here.

1. The International Planting Systems Trial

J.W. Palmer (England), G. Buneman (W. Germ.), S. Sansavini (Italy), P.S. Wagenmakers (N.L.), and F. Winter (W. Germ.)

Results of a comparison of five intensive planting systems of Golden Delic and Gloster on M.9 and M.27 planting in 1981 in 5 countries were given. Second year yields were highest in highest density planted systems, but after 2 years, benefits were not as great. For example, 3-row North-Holland spindles with a 34% higher tree density than single row spindles gave only a 9% increase in cumulative yield for years 2-6. The double row spindle has given no yield advantage over single row trees at the same tree density (per hectare/acre). Differences in skin finish and color of fruit between systems were generally small.

Details of more specific studies were presented on some plantings by individual research cooperators.

2. Controlling Tree Size in Dense Planting by Winter and Summer Pruning

A. Mika, Skierniewice, Poland

Most of the apples in Poland are grown similar to North America with trees planted 6m X 4m on Antonovka or MM106 on light soils. Dr. Mika presented findings on McIntosh/M26 summer pruned treatments late July, which produced increased fruit color with no effect on fruit size. A similar experiment on sweet cherries yielded no effect on fruit size, but reduced trunk girth by 15%.

3. A New Fruit-Training System: The Solen

J.M. Lespinase, Bordeaux, France

J.M. Lespinase, the French researcher responsible for developing guidelines for the Vertical Axis system according to cultivar categories, presented findings for a new system designed for Type IV cultivars. Type IV cultivars, such as Rome, Granny Smith, Tydeman's Red, and Paula Red, are known as terminal bearers where fruit derives from young branches in the upper third of scaffold branches (acrotonic tendency). The "Solen" as described by Lespinase, is a low domed-shaped tree similar to the training and management of grapes on a Bi-lateral Cordon. Here, permanent arms extend down a tree row on a single wire, and shoots are encouraged to originate laterally with frequent renewal to control canopy boundary. Non-fruiting branches are weighted or tied down to encourage early fruiting and balance.

For more information on the "Solen", contact:

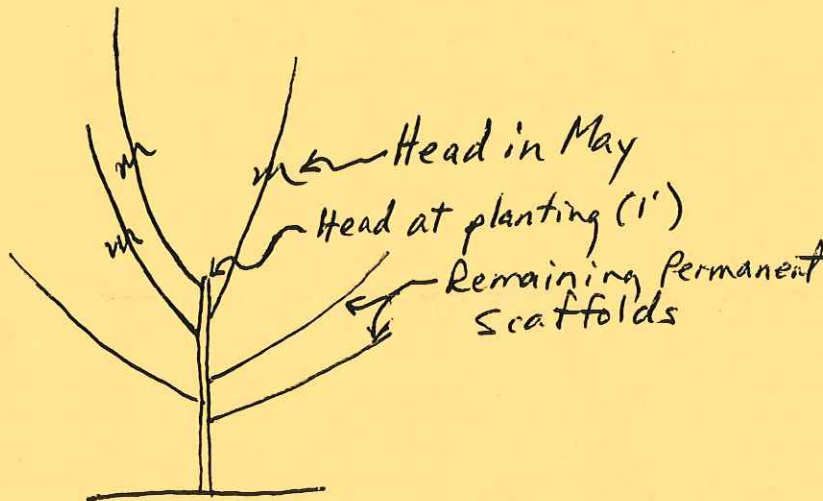
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4. Maximization of Canopy Development and Fruiting Potential of Non-Bearing

Peach Trees

S.C. Myers, Athens, Georgia

S.C. Myers headed unfeathered peach trees at 1 foot (30cm) above soil at planting (Feb.) followed by a double heading of scaffolds in May (see diagram). The removal of 1/2 the length of 2-3 branches below original heading resulted in increased angle of the remaining top three primary scaffolds (open center system). This technique called "Top Center Pruning" increased crotch angles without the use of spreaders.



Staking Apple Trees

Dick Norton, and folks in western New York, popularized the use of the inexpensive stake. The technique is gaining a following in Michigan and in other states. The following is an article I wrote for our Great Lakes audience that I thought IDFTA readers would find of interest.

A drive into the apple growing districts of Michigan today reveals a slight change in looks of young trees. You see bamboo, wood, or tubular metal stakes tied to almost every tree to the central leader! This trend appears at first glance to contradict statements by the author and others, that trees on Mark, M.26, and M.7a are well anchored and self-supporting. If they're so well supported, then why the devil go to the expense?

First of all, lets examine what a stake does for a tree. Then it becomes clearer.

Regardless of species, tree trunks grow rapidly vertically when tied to a structure, regardless of support (stake) diameter. When allowed to sway or rock in the wind, a tree trunk develops more caliper at its base (in an effort to strengthen) primarily as a result of the production of ethylene (yes, the same fruit ripening gas). Therefore, trunk girth expands at the expense of linear shoot growth extension (most notable tree height). This spring we planted several cultivars on Mark rootstock at the Northwest Hort. Research Station near Traverse City. One-half of the trees were staked and pruned similarly to the unstaked trees. The staked trees in September were 10-12" taller, and their trunks near the base were 3-4mm smaller in diameter than the unstaked trees. Additionally, branches on the staked trees appeared larger and more developed.

How important is this to the developing tree? It is most important to

weak growing and/or precocious cultivars on dwarf and semi-dwarf rootstocks such as Mark, M.26, and M.7a. It means that an orchardist can grow a taller canopy and reach the desired height sooner without fear of losing the central leader or potential fruit crop. Without the stake, you would need to head the central leader severely (remove 50% or more) and all of the fruit in the upper third of the central leader in the first 2-5 years. With the stake, tipping or heading is not necessary except where branching is desired. Also, fruiting and spur development in the terminal area can weaken vigorous growth once trees are in their fifth leaf, and thereby help to develop better canopy light relations. The harvested fruit brings in added revenue to the orchardist. The stake also provides stabilization for the upper part of the central leader which counteracts excessive bending as a result of weighting or tying down of new branches.

Can trees 3-6 years old having never been supported benefit from staking? The answer is yes, especially for those trees which appear to have "runted-out" or slowed down in vigor (less than 7-8 ft. in height).

Will a stake reduce chances of breakage of brittle unions? Again, yes. Scion cultivars budded on M.9 and some on Mark develop brittle unions. This can also occur for Granny Smith and Northern Spy on M.26. Canopy and fruit weight in the face of wind for these plants can mean disaster during the initial 1-3 years in the orchard and even in the nursery. Staking can help to avoid this problem until the union matures and more wood is laid down.

What about stakes and tying?

Recommended length/height: 10 ft. (8' above soil, 2' in soil). Some growers prefer 6' above soil.

Type: Galvanized tubes, bamboo, wood. Tubes are slightly easier to drive into the soil.

Cost: Shop around. Reports of \$1-\$2.50 depending on source, quality, and volume ordered.

Tying: Should be done every one and one-half ft. to 2 ft. with strong plastic or flexible material. Less strength material can be used on young growing leader.

The primary benefit of the stake is not to increase tree anchorage, although some improvement is gained, but to assist in vertical extension of the central leader without excessive pruning and fruit removal.

Ron Perry

Jonagold, Elstar, & Gloster in Europe

While travelling in northern Europe, it was interesting to hear and see the enthusiasm for selecting improved colored strains of Jonagold, Elstar, and Gloster. Currently in The Netherlands, Jonagold and Elstar make up 80% of the plantings. This trend is noted in an article by Dr. Fritz Winter, printed in the October issue of "The Goodfruit Grower."