

COMPACT FRUIT TREE

THE INTERNATIONAL DWARF FRUIT TREE ASSOCIATION
VOLUME 35, NUMBER 2

APRIL 2002

IDFTA GOES TO ROCHESTER, NY, SOUTH AMERICA AND SOUTH TYROL, ITALY

The IDFTA Board of Directors met in February 2002 at the Kelowna, British Columbia, conference and set its calendar of events for the next two years. Some plans were changed based on responses to the IDFTA membership questionnaire. A special thanks to the almost 400 members who completed the questionnaire. There will not be a February 2003 conference in Florida or a February 2004 conference in Chile. The Board felt these two conference sites did not match with the interests of the majority of IDFTA members.

At this time Chile might not be a suitable site for a February conference, however there is still considerable interest among IDFTA members in the tree fruit industry of Chile and other South American countries. It was therefore decided to plan a two-week study tour to Chile, Argentina and Brazil for January 2003 (just 11 months away). Did you know that Brazil is the world's leading producer of Gala apples (if we exclude China's uncertain acreage) and the fourth leading producer of Fuji? Argentina is the leading producer of Packham's pears and a major producer of apples. The study tour will feature leading local experts on production, handling, storage and marketing and will visit numerous orchards and warehouses. Watch for the itinerary. For information contact Dr. Bruce Barritt, tour leader, at 509-663-8181, ext. 233, or e-mail at <etaplz@wsu.edu>.

The February 2003 conference will be held in Rochester, New York, in the center of the western New York tree fruit industry. Rochester was chosen for several reasons, including the dedicated New York tree fruit extension team,

the outstanding research team at Cornell University, both at Geneva and Ithaca, and the proximity to progressive orchards and extensive orchard management field trials.

The results of the IDFTA membership questionnaire showed considerable interest in holding workshops in conjunction with February conferences. A workshop is a concentrated educational program for 1 to 1 1/2 days on a single topic. A workshop on orchard systems is planned for the Rochester conference. Speakers will be orchard systems experts, growers, extension specialists and researchers. Participation will be limited to ensure interaction among the participants and speakers.

On the membership questionnaire, Italy, particularly South Tyrol, received the greatest number of mentions as an international site for a future IDFTA conference. The Board of Directors selected South Tyrol, Italy, as the site for the February 2004 conference. South Tyrol has one of the most progressive fruit industries and is perhaps the most beautiful fruit-growing district in the world. The conference, typical of past IDFTA conferences, will include both technical education sessions and nearby orchard, warehouse and research center visits. It is anticipated there will be pre- and post-conference tours, possibly to the Po Valley in Italy, a major stone fruit and pear region, and to the Bodensee District in southern Germany, a district with extensive high density apple and sweet cherry orchards. Start planning today. Save your pennies and Euros and plan to participate in the February 2004 conference in South Tyrol, Italy.

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IDFTA CALENDAR

Summer Tour June 22-25, 2002 Old Orchard Inn (phone 902-542-5751) Wolfville, Nova Scotia, Canada	46th Annual Conference February 2003 Rochester or Syracuse, New York
Tree Fruit Study Tour Chile, Argentina and Brazil Last 2 weeks of January 2003	47th Annual Conference February 2004 South Tyrol, Italy