

The Grapevine

March 2015 • The Journal of the Midwest Fruit Explorers • Vol. 39 No. 1

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

My name is Chuck Heisinger and I was elected to serve the club as president for 2015. I look forward to seeing you, or perhaps meeting you for the first time, at our events this year.

As for those events, we look forward to rescheduling Professor Ron Perry for the Kurle lecture, once he is back on his feet from the flu and the Chicago Botanic Garden schedule permits. Our popular grafting workshops will be back at Cantigny and CBG, although they will take place earlier than last year. If you would like to have some avid orchardists over for a picnic this summer, let's talk. We're looking for a venue. We will be offering a pruning workshop and many interesting orchard tours between these hosted events. To wrap up the year, we will show off the fruits of our labor at Harvest fest in October, and then we'll cap it all off with a cider social. Sound like a plan?

My mission is to grow passionate apple connoisseurs for tomorrow (kids that know more about apples than what arrives in the school box lunch). To accomplish that, I planted an orchard 10 years ago at the Evanston YMCA summer camp in Fremont, Michigan. In future letters, I'll discuss the trials and tribulations of that adventure.

...and why am I here?

"The best time to plant an apple tree was 20 years ago, the next best time is now." –unknown

If that quote is cliché to this audience, please forgive me. I suppose it is equally apt to projects, dreams, and just about anything requiring maturation. But, it hits home particularly when we are talking about fruit trees.

When I dropped in on my first MidFEx event, one of the septuagenarians gauged my age by saying, "Well it looks to me like you have one, maybe two, orchards in your future." He was thinking in metrics that were foreign to my short time horizon. It certainly gave me a new perspective on what to expect and when. Perhaps I haven't hit the mid-point of my time with MidFEx because I'm thinking more about harvests to come rather than harvests of yore, (which are way too easy to count.)

So, it brings me to the question, "Why are we here--now?" What do these trees and orchards tell us about time, future and past, and mortality (ours specifically). I have taken to giving trees to friends who are celebrating milestone birthdays. Sometimes I am embarrassed to bring a small 18' newly-grafted tree to a birthday party. Let 10 years pass, though, and that little tree has endured the weather of the Midwest and become a loyal companion, even a marker of time, and a generous bearer for the recipient—a loyal friend that will likely survive its owner. Sometimes I get feedback, like "That was the best present EVER!"

This year, I will celebrate the 60th birthday of my friend Magda. Magda and I were born in adjoining bassinets, as our mothers were close friends. Magda grew up in, and now owns, an enchanted country homestead in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, abundant with fresh-water ponds, a big barn, asparagus patches, and an old, dying orchard. At this year's Harvest Fest, I knew instantly what I would get her for a birthday present—a Hidden Rose apple tree. Imagine how much fun she might get out of that tree. Think of the amazement that her friends might experience when they bite into a Hidden Rose. That's why I'm here.

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Attention Scion Donors and Seekers!!!

Are you coming to the spring grafting workshops [preferably the 1st]? Are you looking for some special variety of scion wood? Can you bring or send scion wood? Your help is needed!

I am again trying to coordinate supply and demand in our scion wood collection. In the near future, please take a hike through the snow to make grafting plans and evaluate your trees as scion wood sources. Do you have young wood, preferably 2014 new growth, with the diameter of a pencil +/-? Has the tree produced fruit and are you sure of its identity? Please help correct some of the problems with last year's scion wood collection:

Labeling- Please clearly label each heavy ziplock bag with the type of fruit, the variety and your name. We have had instances of misidentified wood.

Wood quality- Old brittle wood is difficult to successfully graft. Bring young pre-cut 4-8 inch pieces (avoid whole branches) with at least 3 good leaf buds. Please collect the wood shortly before the workshop, add damp newspaper to the bag and refrigerate.

Basically, bring what you would like to receive to ensure success. I am asking all members planning to attend to realistically consider what they would like and what they can bring. Do not forget the more uncommon fruit. Send me a vertical column list of what you want by fruit type and variety (I don't always recognize variety names) and a list of what you can bring. Please include your name, phone number(s) and email. I will compare lists and then call everyone to ask for scion wood to be collected. Remember to bring extra bags to take home your scion wood and rootstock.

As a new service to the members I will also try to act as a WILL CALL DISTRIBUTOR for those that have individually arranged for scion wood so it isn't lost. Give me separate small ziplocks labeled with TO: xxx, FROM: yyy, CONTAINS: zzz and I will segregate them and hand them over when asked so you don't have to chase down members.

Contact me ASAP at: Kevin Kuchel, 2100 George St., Rolling Meadows, Ill. 60008, kjkuchel@yahoo.com 847-398-6487 (days/weekends best)



Volunteers Needed at the Grafting Workshops!

Member assistance is needed at the grafting workshops for the following primary tasks:

Scionwood Sorting & Labeling: The scionwood donated by members needs to be sorted and labeled. No experience required. (Cantigny & CBG morning)

Rootstock Sorting & Tagging: The rootstock is shipped from vendors in bulk. We individually tag the rootstocks, set them in bins to soak, and setup wrapping/bagging stations. No experience required. (Cantigny morning)

Workshop Staffing: We need members at the workshops to distribute rootstock, scion wood, and grafting supplies. We also need members with grafting experience to review grafts of novice grafters. (Cantigny & CBG)

Newspaper supply: We request that everyone bring newspapers for wrapping – no glossy sheets, please.

If you can assist with any of the above tasks call or email Jeff Postlewaite (708 596-7139, Jeff@FrugalFarm.com) or Bob Walter (630-662-6819 robjwalter@gmail.com) to let them know when and where you can help.

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MidFEx Grafting Workshops

Sunday, March 22, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Cantigny Gardens, 1S151 Winfield Rd Wheaton, IL 60189

Members and their guests only at this first workshop, please! Find out what grafting fruit trees is all about. Learn the whys and hows with experienced grafters. We will also have an impressive amount of scion wood available for grafting. If you'd like more information about grafting see the Grafting Page. ****Please note:** Unless rootstocks were preordered, each attendee will be limited to three (3) rootstocks each

Setup: 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

Instruction: 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Lecture begins promptly at 1:00. You **MUST** attend the lecture from the beginning if you are new to grafting. The lecture will be followed by a practice session. Individual help with grafting will also be offered.

Directions: Greenhouse entrance is on Shaffner Road. Reach the greenhouse by going west from Wheaton on Roosevelt Road (I Illinois 38). Turn south on Shaffner about 300 yards (the only road south between the stop lights on County Farm Road and Winfield Road). Look for sign on west side.

Alternative Cantigny directions: To reach Roosevelt Road from Route 88 (East West Tollway) take the Winfield Rd exit. Turn north on Winfield Rd. After a while and a number of lights you will pass the main entrance to Cantigny on your right. The next light is Roosevelt Rd (I Illinois 38). Turn right or east on Roosevelt Rd. The next road on your right is Schaffner Rd. Turn south on Schaffner Rd. Continue as above.



Sunday, March 29, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Chicago Botanic Gardens, 1000 Lake Cook Rd Glencoe, IL 60022

*Morning session for Members only, afternoon session for members and general public.

Setup: 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Advanced Grafting: 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Members only discussion of advanced grafting techniques for members with grafting experience.

Instruction: 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Lecture begins promptly at 1:00. You **MUST** attend the lecture from the beginning if you are new to grafting. The lecture will be followed by a practice session. Individual help with grafting will also be offered. ****Please note:** The purpose of the grafting workshop is to learn how to graft. Nonmember beginners will learn how to graft selected apple varieties on apple rootstock. Unless rootstocks were preordered, each attendee will be limited to three (3) rootstocks each.

Directions: Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake Cook Road, Glencoe. Exit either Edens Expressway (94) or Tri-State Tollway (294) onto Lake Cook Road and head east. The CBG entrance is on the south side of Lake Cook Road, just east of the Edens (41). Morning session for members only.



Additional Information: Workshop attendees are reminded to bring a sharp thin bladed knife with a maximum 2-3 inch blade for grafting. Very sharp pocketknives and utility knives with replaceable blades have successfully been used for grafting. We will have grafting knives for sale to those that don't have a knife or find that theirs is not up to the task.

Volunteers are also still needed to help at the sessions, especially at Cantigny in the morning! We request that everyone bring newspapers – not glossy sheets, please.

Remember: Due to limited space, only individuals actually grafting fruit trees will be allowed in the grafting area. Friends, spouses and children are welcome, but should bring a good book or explore the grounds during the sessions.

Advanced Grafting Techniques and Espalier Check-In

Oriana Kruszewski

A grafting discussion will be held at the 2nd grafting workshop at the Chicago Botanic Garden from 10:30 am to 12:00 pm on March 29th. Members are encouraged to bring in their grafting problems or failures to discuss with other members. We will review other grafting techniques beside the whip and tongue method such as using a bridge graft to repair damaged trunks or step graft for making a new leader, or what can be done if the scion and rootstock that are unmatched in size. If time permits, we also can talk about how to make an "inter-stem" tree for apple or pear for dwarfing purposes and to overcome incompatibility problems. For those who started a new espalier tree last year, please bring in a photo or the tree for further discussion.



Scion Collection Guidelines

MidFEx is dependent on its members to provide the wide variety of scion wood available at our grafting workshops. Success of the graft is largely the result of the care given to the harvesting and storage of the scion wood. Please observe the following guidelines when contributing scion wood:

1. Cut scion wood only from trees that are free from disease and that have fruited.
2. Cut the wood while it is still fully dormant before the buds start to swell, preferably not more than 2 - 3 weeks before the workshops.
3. Cut only last years new growth that is about the thickness of a pencil or slightly less. Water spouts make excellent scion wood.
4. Scion wood should be cut into 4 - 8 inch lengths with at least 3 buds per stick.
5. Label the bundle (or ideally each stick) with the variety name.
6. Put the bundle in a zip-lock or similar plastic bag, expel as much air as possible, and seal.
7. Refrigerate. Ideally, apples and bananas should not be refrigerated with the scion wood. They give off ethylene gas that may induce the buds to open.

NOTE: When donating scion wood for the workshops, we ask donors to provide a list on a single piece of paper that lists the donor's name and the names of all the scion varieties they are donating. This will speed up the scion intake process and assist us in building a catalog of scion at the workshops.

Example:

DONOR: Jeff Postlewaite	DATE: 3/18/12
FRUIT	VARIETY
apple apple pear	mutsu gala seckel

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Real Root Wedge Grafting Patrick Driscoll

I read an interesting short article in the Winter 2012 Pomona. Herman Auer begins this innovative approach by storing some of his favorite peach scions in the fridge, when they are dormant. When grafting season has come, he digs down under one of his more prolific peach trees, and snips off a horizontal root about the diameter of a pencil. He immediately wraps it in moist cloth, and does not let the sunshine touch it.

Subsequently, he goes in the shade and does a wedge graft from one of the dormant peach scions to this piece of root. He wraps it in tape and plants it right away in a vertical position with the graft union just barely covered with soil. After four weeks, the buds on the scion start to break and leaves begin to show. About a month later, he returns, removes the tape, and lightly scrapes away the soil from the graft union. Voila a new peach tree! He has been doing this for ten years! I wonder what other fruits this would work on?

Grapevine Articles Wanted!

Deadline for articles to Robin Guy, gathering editor, for next issue is May 12, 2015. Please e-mail articles to Robin at editor@midfex.org and type "GRAPEVINE" in the header. We want to hear about all things fruit – related articles, discoveries you've made, recipes, your success stories and failures. By sharing with the group, we will all learn!

Rescheduled! 2015 Kurle Memorial Lecture

Establishing a Backyard Orchard

Site Selection, Preparation, and Planting; Rootstock Selection, Trellis Design and Construction; Tree Pruning, Training, and Nutrition

Dr. Perry served as Chairman of the Horticulture Department at MSU from 2000 to 2007, where he taught numerous courses in fruit, berry, and grape production, and participated in the field trials of the NC-140 rootstock. He will speak on a variety of topics of interest to home and amateur orchardists.

The Kurle Memorial Lecture is offered annually in honor of Bob and Mary Kurle, founders of the Midwest Fruit Explorers. Bob was known as one of the top fruit and nut enthusiasts in the U.S. He networked actively with fruit and nut growers all over the world. In the 1970s, Bob's displays at the Chicago Flower and Garden Show focused the interest of ordinary gardeners on dwarf and semi-dwarf fruit, hybrid nuts, and promoted the growing of varieties best-suited to the Chicagoland area. He was featured in Organic Gardening and the Chicago Tribune. Midwest Fruit Explorers is a non-profit organization of amateur backyard fruit growing enthusiasts. Our members share experiences about propagating, growing, and using superior and often lesser-known fruits that grow well in the Midwest.

**Lecture details: Sunday, April 26, 1-4 pm, Free Admission
Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake Cook Road, Glencoe, IL**

Dr. Ronald L. Perry, Professor of Horticulture,
Michigan State University

<http://www.hrt.msu.edu/ronald-perry>

To learn more about the NC-140 Rootstock Trials, visit:

<http://www.nc140.org/>



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Winter meeting Summary

By: Bill Scheffler

The MidFex Winter meeting was held at the Prospect Heights Park District Building on January 25, 2015. There were 24 members in attendance

Notes: Members gathered at 1pm with everyone bringing food, books and good stories. Garden clubs in general and our club in particular, eat very well and each person brought their signature dish. Hearty fare included soups, chili and guacamole dip with some awesome fruit dishes for dessert. Alvin was voted designated chili maker with his outstanding dish and Stella had the best pie crust in the humble opinion of many.

Minutes: Business meeting began at 2:25pm opened by President Craig Evankoe

Items:

- 1) The DuPage Organic Garden Club is hosting a Gardeners Resource Fair for local homeowners. We are invited to staff a table, free of charge, and promote our work. Craig has volunteered to be there and other members are welcome. The location is the Carol Stream Public Library on Saturday May 30, 2015 from 1pm to 4 pm. If you would like to attend the best way to do so is to just show up. We will be answering questions, promoting our club and events and encouraging people to grow more fruit.
- 2) Grafting workshop; Craig will be meeting with Cantigny the last week of January to confirm all arrangements for the grafting clinic which will be March 22, 2015.
- 3) Kurle Lecture; Chuck Heisinger spoke briefly regarding our speaker for the Kurle Lecture at CBG on Feb 15, 2015. Flyers were passed out and we are encouraged to make copies and hand out. People are encouraged to car pool with a friend or park at Al's house and car pool from there. Save money and have fun travelling together!
- 4) Token of appreciation; Members discussed appropriate gifts of appreciation for Randy Suvada and Brad Platt for their huge investment of time and talent constructing and hosting the website. It was decided we would go to Brad's house and help him plant some trees and get a nice gift card for Randy.
- 5) Pruning session; Chuck passed around a post card that will be mailed to all members announcing the pruning workshop to be held at Tim Hamilton's home on Feb 22, 2015. We discussed if there should be any other info included on the post card.
- 6) Orchard tour; There will be an all-day field trip to Oriana's orchard on Sunday, April 13, 2015. This date is tentative and more details will follow.
- 7) Treasurer's report; Jeff gave an extensive Treasurer's report. There was an important discussion regarding the distribution of the Grapevine. Right now 33 members receive theirs by email and we discussed how we can sign up. It is a significant savings to the club when we use email.
- 8) Donating our extra root stock; Last year we grafted a scion onto our extra root stocks and then donated the trees. We discussed where they went last year and possible future recipients. Everyone agreed this was a good idea especially when they can go to local community colleges that have a horticulture program.
- 9) Summer Picnic; No location was decided and Rob Walters volunteered to organize the arrangements. Bill Scheffler will assist him. Please send suggestions to Rob and check a future Grapevine for final details.
- 10) New forum; Patrick explained some of the features of a new forum we are putting together. There are many moving parts to this project so please look for an article written by Patrick that will explain more clearly.

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(continued from previous page)

11) Autodialer; Chuck and Patrick are researching an autodialer for contacting all members when information needs to be timely and get out. Member phone numbers will be entered and messages will be called or texted. This will save a lot of time and expense over mailing post cards.

12) Officer elections; Craig Evankoe will step down as President and Chuck Heisinger was nominated and voted to succeed him. All other officers will continue for 2015. Congratulations to Chuck and thank you to all the other officers.

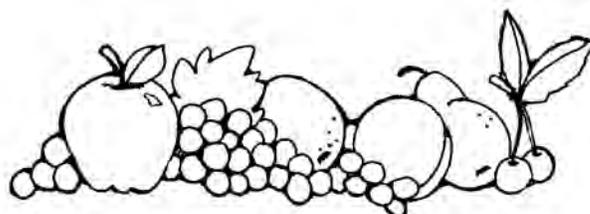
13) A word of appreciation for Craig's work; Our club is very grateful for Craig's leadership. Craig, like Dennis and Tim before him, is a very good listener which encouraged everyone to speak their mind and participate. He took responsibility and made decisive action when it was needed. This style of leadership works very well with our club. Thank you, Craig, and happy growing!

The business meeting concluded at 3:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Bill Scheffler
MidFex Secretary



MidFEX members enjoying food and good company at our annual meeting on January 25th, 2015.



2015 NAFEX Meeting in La Crosse, Wisconsin

The 2015 Festival of Fruit will be held on July 22 at 5:00 pm to July 25 at 5:00 pm at the Days Inn La Crosse & Conference Center located at 101 Sky Harbour Drive in La Crosse, Wisconsin. Check out their website for more details: www.nafex.org

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How to Optimize Placement of Pheromone Traps in Your Orchard

Diane Brown

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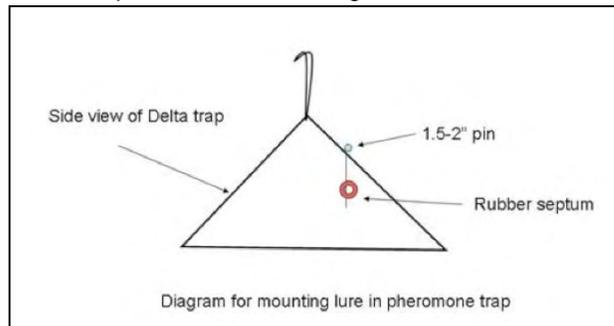
Pheromone traps are useful tools to monitor codling moths and Oriental fruit moths in orchards

Pheromone traps are an important IPM tool to track moth catches and evaluate pest pressure. Well-placed and maintained traps can greatly improve decision-making when it comes to timing insecticide applications, and determining the need for insecticide applications to control codling moth (CM) and oriental fruit moth (OFM). Keep in mind however, that the traps are not a substitute for visual inspection of fruit to look for signs of infestation. Rather, trapping should be used in conjunction with inspecting fruit for injury.

MSU Extension's Pocket Guide for IPM Scouting in Michigan Apples (E-2720 – purchase or view on-line) has information about scouting for both CM and OFM in apples. The Pocket Guide for IPM Scouting in Stone Fruits (E-2840 – purchase or view on-line) has detailed information about scouting for OFM in peaches.

There are several types of traps that can be used for monitoring CM and OFM including wing, diamond and delta traps. The plastic delta trap, discussed here, is probably the best option because it is reusable through several seasons, has a large trapping surface, and a removable sticky insert that is easy to replace when the adhesive surface becomes too dirty to catch moths. Traps are available in orange or white. The orange traps are less likely to attract and trap pollinators and other beneficial insects. If you decide to keep the traps to use for additional seasons, remove the spent lures, store traps that have been used for a particular pest species together and be sure that you reuse them for that same species the next year to avoid cross-contamination.

Never place more than one kind of lure in a trap, and avoid re-using the trap with a lure for another species. The pheromones penetrate the trap material, and using a different lure will cause failure of the lure.



One of the most common lures is a red rubber septum, which resembles a pencil tip eraser. The septum is pre-loaded with pheromone. After assembling the trap, an ingenious way of mounting the lure is to stick a 1.5 to 2 inch plastic-headed sewing pin straight down through one of the top sides, equal distance from both ends. Wearing disposable gloves, pick up the septum, reach inside the trap and stick the pin through the septum widthwise so it hangs horizontally above the bottom of the trap. Then mount all the lures of a single type, change gloves, and switch to the next lure you will need. Wear disposable gloves when handling the lures, and change gloves before you switch to mounting lures for a different species to avoid cross contamination. The sticky bottom can then be slid into the trap, and the side snapped into place.

OFM traps can be placed at a comfortable height for visual inspection. Avoid using outside tree rows for pheromone traps. Place OFM traps 3 to 4 rows in, at least 25 feet apart and at a density of 1 trap per ten acres.

Remove moths, other insects and debris from the trap each time you check it. Trap bottoms should be changed when they are dirty. Follow manufacturer's directions for changing lures, but in general for OFM, change lures each generation. Used lures and lure packaging should be removed from the orchard, not dropped on the ground. Keep trap entrances clear of foliage. Hang bright, colored flagging tape (fluorescent pink works well) on the trees where the traps are located

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dropped on the ground. Keep trap entrances clear of foliage. Hang bright, colored flagging tape (fluorescent pink works well) on the trees where the traps are located, on the end of the row and make a written reference or map for yourself so you can find the traps again as the season progresses.



Traps for CM should be hung in the upper third of the tree canopy, on the periphery of the tree with the trap entrances oriented so moths can fly through. A bamboo pole or PVC pole can be used to position the trap high in the canopy. The length of pole needed will depend on the tree height and how high you can comfortably reach. For small to medium-sized trees a 5-6 foot pole should be long enough, but 8-foot or longer poles may be needed for taller trees. Drill a hole near the end of the pole to use for securing the trap. Compress the end of the trap's wire hanger with a sturdy pair of pliers to enable it to slide through the hole in the bamboo pole, and then wrap the wire back around itself to secure the trap. Traps for CM are now ready to hang.

Find a branch high in the canopy to slip the trap over, and adjust it with the pole so that the trap hangs straight down. Once the trap is in place, hang bright, colored flagging tape (fluorescent pink works well) on the trees where the traps are located, and on the end of the row. Make a written reference or map for yourself in case the tapes get pruned off so you can find the traps again as the season progresses. Keep the trap entrances free of foliage so that moths can follow the odor plume and be lured into the trap. Leaves can be periodically pruned away as the foliage grows.

Traps for CM should be placed at a density of 1 trap/2.5 acres. Place CM traps 3 to 4 rows in and at least 25 feet apart. Remove moths, other insects and debris from the trap each time you check it. Trap bottoms should be changed when they are dirty. When lures are changed, remove both the old lures and the packaging for the new lures from the orchard. Follow manufacturer's recommendations for frequency of changing lures.

There are several lures available that will last for different lengths of time. Some work better in pheromone disrupted orchards than others. High load lures, containing more pheromone, will need to be changed less frequently than standard lures. For codling moth, a combination lure has been developed that contains both pheromones and an ester present in the odor of ripe Bartlett pears. Called the CM/DA lure, it attracts both male and female CM, and has been found by MSU researchers to be useful in monitoring CM in orchards that have been treated with a mating disruption product. Either pheromone based CM lures or CM/DA lures can be used in non- mating disrupted blocks.

References

- A Pocket Guide for IPM Scouting in Michigan Apples, D. Epstein and L. Gut, MSU Extension Bulletin, E-2720
- A Pocket Guide for IPM Scouting in Stone Fruits, D. Epstein, L. Gut, A. Jones, and K. Maxon-Stein MSU Extension Bulletin, E-2840
- Using pheromone traps to monitor moth activity in orchards. ipmnews.msu.edu/fruit May 19, 2009. Larry Gut, David Epstein and Peter Mc

Pear Virus Alert Jim Ozzello

I have been shocked that one of my favorite pears, Countess Clara Frijs, is infected with the virus, "vein yellow". I am profoundly troubled by the difficulty this may cause members who got scion wood from me, and I apologize for my carelessness.

Here is how this occurred: working from an eighteen-year-old list of Corvallis germplasm holdings, I received some Rogue Red pear scion wood from the station a few years ago. That old list did not note virus infection; the current one online does, but I did not use it. Then I made a second error. I grafted the Rogue Red onto one arm of a double cordon, the other arm of which was Clara Frijs and infecting it as well.

The vein yellow virus makes the ordinarily dark green pear leaves green-yellow, weakening the vitality of the plant. Productivity falls off and fruit is slightly smaller. So far no neighboring trees are infected. If one uses good sanitation when pruning the infection is unlikely to spread. However, with sadness I have removed the cordon to be certain. I still recommend Clara Frijs for our area, but I cannot supply it.

Willing to host the summer picnic? Contact us!

We traditionally hold our summer picnic in mid-July, and we are now looking for a picnic location. If you have some ideas of interesting places or would like to offer your place, please give Bob Walter a call at 630-662-6819. Our picnics attract 40-60 people, and require a weather tent and tables/chairs, which we supply.

Member Coffee Bag Giveaway

A few years ago I became the owner of several thousand unused one-pound coffee bags when a friendly coffee roaster went out of business. These are just like the ones you see at the grocery store. I have used them ever since for temporary "pots" for my grafted trees and all sorts of other plant starting uses. Now my storage space is about to go away and I cannot keep them all. By June 1, I will have to dump whatever is left of them. There are two skids of them in cases of 500 per case, originally 24,000 total. Any member who would be interested in using them is welcome to contact me and I can send you as many as you would like free, preferably in lots of 500. My email is amvjca@aol.com and my daytime phone is 608 785-0032. Call on our toll free line if you want at 877-483-4547. Thanks, Chris Andersen, La Crosse, Wisconsin

2015 Organic Orchard Interns wanted

Organic orchard interns with experience in fruit trees wanted for 2015 season. This internship would involve pruning, grafting, planting; blossom and fruit thinning in spring and other maintenance. Harvest season is from the end of August to the beginning of October, and would require about 10 visits to the orchard.

I can also offer experience and learning about planting and using Chinese medicinal herbs. In return for your help, a number of fruit trees (Asian pear, European pear, pawpaw seedling) will be set aside for your own home orchard. If interested, please contact - Oriana Kruszewski at 847-673-9175 or email - asianpearfarm1@gmail.com

Your membership may be expiring! **Check your Grapevine address label for your membership expiration date. If it says "3/31/2015" or earlier, it is time to renew!**

MidFEx Membership Application

New Member Renewing Member

Name (please print)			
Address	City	State	Zip
Telephone	E-Mail		

Amount Enclosed: \$15 (1 Year) \$25 (2 Years) \$30 (3 Years)

Mail to: MidFEx Membership
P.O. Box 93
Markham, IL 60428-0093

The above information (name, address and phone only) will appear in our Members' Only Directory (June issue) and is never sold or rented to outside interests.

Summary of Financial Status 1/1/2014-12/31/2014

Summary of Income:	
Harvest Festival	5,671.00
Grafting Workshops	3,314.00
Memberships	2,050.00
Misc Sales (picnic auction, sales to members)	197.50
Interest	1.76
Total Income:	\$11,234.26
Summary of Expenses:	
Harvest Festival	4,586.73
Grafting Workshops	3,367.61
Grapevine	2,330.47
Picnic	514.46
Insurance	574.00
Meeting Expenses (speakers, refreshments, etc.)	884.30
Other Correspondence	130.43
Illinois NFP filing fees	10.00
Web Site / Internet	116.22
Cider Press	1,398.99
Total Expenses:	\$13,913.21
Net Income (Loss):	(2,678.95)
Treasury Balance as of 12/31/14:	\$8,940.18

Notes:

1. Harvest Festival expenses include fruit butters, books, and bags still in inventory.
2. Grafting Workshops expenses include knives, books and root bags still in inventory.

See photos in color! Save the club \$\$! Log in to the MidFEx Member page to get your Grapevine via email.

MidFEx Calendar	
March 22, 2015	Grafting Workshop , Cantigny Gardens, Wheaton, IL - 9:00 – 4:30 p.m.
March 29, 2015	Grafting Workshop , Chicago Botanic Gardens, Glencoe, IL - 9:00 – 4:30 p.m.
April 26, 2015	Rescheduled Kurle Memorial Lecture – Dr. Ron Perry – Chicago Botanic Garden, 1-4 p.m.
May 12, 2015	Submissions due for the next issue of the Grapevine
Summer 2015	Summer Picnic – Location and Time TBD
October 17-18' 2015	Fall Harvest Festival at Chicago Botanic Gardens, Glencoe (17th set up)
Date TBD	Apple Cider Social, Location TBD
MidFEx Officers and Contacts	
President: Chuck Heisinger Secretary: Bill Scheffler Vice-President: Patrick Driscoll Treasurer: Jeff Postlewaite	
<p>MidFEx Online Forum: Members are invited to join the MidFEx forum. Get advice and share your fruit growing experiences with other members. Subscribe to the forum at: http://lists.ibiblio.org/mailman/listinfo/midfex Forum Administrator: Sherwin Dubren (sherwindu@att.net) Membership: Use enclosed application, see website, email membership@midfex.org Or write: MidFEx Membership, P.O. Box 93, Markham, IL 60428-0093</p>	<p>MidFEx Web Site: http://www.midfex.org Send anything of interest (links, photographs, fruit info, etc.) to webadmin@midfex.org for consideration for web site posting. Member Area first time login: username is your last name (case sensitive exactly as on your address label) plus a '-' plus your 5 character zip code. Example "Doe-60010". password is your username as described above plus a '-' plus your membership expiration date expressed as 6 numeric characters. Example "Doe-60010-063012"</p>
<p>Orchard Guide: Local on-line fruit growing resource developed by a MidFEx member. You enter in the varieties of fruit trees that you are growing. The site estimates when pests will appear based on local weather reports so you can exercise spraying or integrated pest management (IPM) more efficiently. Post feedback on your growing experiences with specific varieties, and read feedback from others about which varieties do well here and which struggle. Access from MidFEx.org home page after logging in.</p>	
<p>Grapevine articles wanted! Deadline for articles to Robin Guy for next issue: May 12, 2015. Please email articles to Robin and type "GRAPEVINE" in the header. Grapevine Gathering editor: Robin Guy (editor@midfex.org) Layout editor: Vanessa Smith</p>	