Michigan Teams Up with New York to Produce Fruit Quarterly

Apple growers from Michigan and New York will equally benefit from a new partnership to produce the Fruit Quarterly. Our two industries can learn a lot from each other, and sharing research will open doors to many new opportunities. Since we share similar growing climates, this collaboration means sharing valuable and useful information between researchers and growers in our states. Michigan and New York also deal with some of the same invasive species, including Codling Moth and Brown Marmorated Stink Bug.

As times continue to change and we as an industry continue to adapt, I am optimistic that if we work together we can overcome the challenges we face. Our collaboration in research means we are stronger in addressing pest and disease issues. But it also means we can come together to cultivate new ideas and innovations. This kind of synergy is what builds a solid foundation for growth and success in such a dynamic agricultural field.

George Sundin, Ph.D., has authored one of the first research articles from Michigan, covering the topic on fire blight management, particularly the use of Kasumin as well as non-antibiotic control of blight. George is a member of the MSU Extension program and is responsible for research in tree fruit disease management. As part of the Extension program, his goals are to provide timely information and tree fruit disease management recommendations to growers.

John Wise, Ph.D., has also contributed an article on mite flaring in apples. John is a fruit entomologist who works with MSU Extension and is a field research director at one of our state’s Research Centers. He is one of the researchers responsible for developing pest management strategies for Michigan apple growers. John is also the field research director in the national IR-4 residue program, primary avenue by which new reduced-risk pesticides are registered for specialty crop growers.

Over the next few issues, Michigan will continue to feature researchers with articles on important topics that affect growers. I am excited to see what both our states will bring to the table to share as we move forward.

Throughout the almost 19 years I’ve worked for the Michigan Apple Industry I’ve learned that quality research is a crucial piece to the agricultural industry’s success. Michigan and New York growers are fortunate to have access to the world-class research and great minds at Michigan State University and Cornell University. The partnerships we have with these institutions provide us with great educational opportunities. Even though we are from two different states, one thing is for sure — Michigan and New York apple growers are equally passionate about their industry succeeding. Through our partnership in this publication, we now have even more opportunity to advance our industries.

As we join forces with New York, I’m confident we will achieve great things. I look forward to this new partnership and seeing what the future holds for both apple industries. When Michigan and New York are able to successfully collaborate with each other, it’s a “win-win” situation for all.

Diane Smith
Executive Director, Michigan Apple Committee
Email: Diane@michiganapples.com

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NEW YORK STATE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

President
William R. Gunnison
Gunnison Lakeshore Orchards
3196 NYS Rt. 9W & 22, Crown Point, NY 12928
Ph: 518-597-3367 (W); 518-597-3817 (H)
Cell: 518-572-4642
gunnisonorchards@yahoo.com

Vice President
Chuck Mead, Mead Orchards LLC
1 Scim Rd., Tivoli, NY 12583
Ph: 845-756-5641 (W); Cell: 845-389-0731
chuck@meadorchards.com

Treasurer/Secretary
Doug Fox, D&A Ventures LLC
4959 Fish Farm Rd., Sodus, NY 14551
Ph: 315-483-4556
dfox12@haast.net

Executive Director
Paul Baker
3568 Saunders Settlement Rd., Sambon, NY 14132
Cell: 716-807-6827; Fax: (716) 219-4089
pbaker.hort@readrunner.com

Admin Assistant
Karen Wilson
630 W. North St., Geneva, NY 14456
Ph: 315-787-2040; Cell: 315-531-0852
Fax: 315-787-2216; wilsonk36@hotmail.com

Cornell Director
Dr. Terence Robinson, NYSAES
630 W. North Street
Hedrick Hall, Room 125, Geneva, NY 14456
Ph: 315-787-2227; Cell: 315-521-0435
fr1@cornell.edu

Director
Tom DelKamere, DelKamere Fruit Farm
7654 Townline Rd., Williamsville, NY 14221
Ph: 315-589-9698; Cell: 315-576-1244
demareel@auaol.com

Director
Peter Fleckenstein, Marshall S. Skiff Orchards
4472 Cherry Valley Tp., Lafayette, NY 13084
Ph: (315) 436-1045; Cell: (315) 664-0991
peterfleck@verizon.net

Director
Dan Siewert
Lakeview Orchards, Inc.
4911 Lake Road, Burt, NY 14028
Ph: 716-778-7491 (W); Cell: 716-870-8968
hschneider@hotmail.com

Director
Peter Barton
55 Apple Tree Lane, Paupack, PA 18341
Ph: 845-227-2306 (W); 845-227-7149 (H)
Cell: 845-656-5217
pbarton@bestweb.net

Director
John Ivison, Helena Chemical Co.
165 S. Plank St., Suite 100
Albion, NY 14411; Ph: 585-589-4195 (W)
Cell: 585-589-2262
ivison@helenachemical.com

Director
Ward Dobkins, H.H. Dobkins & Sons
99 West Ave., PO Box 503
Lyndonville, NY 14098; Ph: 585-765-2271
Fax: 585-765-9710

Director
Ned Morgan
Morgan Farms LLC
331 Pigeon Hill Road, Marion, NY 14505
Ph: 315-926-7740
emorgan@necn rhet.com

NYS BERRY GROWERS BOARD MEMBERS

Chair
Dale Riggs, Stonewall Hill Farm
15370 NY Rt. 22, Steubenville, NY 12168
Ph: 518-733-6772; stonewallhill@taconic.net

Treasurer
Tony Emmi, Emmi Farms
1575 S. Ivy Trail, Baldwinvillie, NY 13027
Ph: 315-638-7679; emmifarms@aol.com

Executive Secretary
Paul Baker
3568 Saunders Settlement Rd., Sambon, NY 14132
Cell: 716-807-6827; Fax: (716) 219-4089
pbaker.hort@roadrunner.com

Bob Brown III, Brown’s Berry Patch
2328 Reed Rd., Bergen, NY 14416
Ph: 585-494-1187; bcarson1@frontiernet.net

Bruce Carson, Carson’s Blossom Berries
225 Ainger Road, Fultonville, NY 12072
Ph: 518-281-6000; carsonfarm.com

David Coulter, Coulter Farms
3871 N. Ridge Road, Lockport, NY 14094
Ph: 716-433-3335; coulterfarms@aol.com

John Cashin, Cashin Farm
225 Ainger Road, Fultonville, NY 12072
Ph: 518-281-6000; cashinsfarm.com

Terry Mosher, Mosher Farms
RD #1 Box 60, Bruckville, NY 13310
Ph: 315-803-7173; tmosher@twcny.com

Chuck Mead, Mead Orchards LLC
15 Scim Rd., Tivoli, NY 12583
Ph: 845-756-5641 (W); Cell: 845-389-0731
chuck@meadorchards.com

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Ludington, Michigan
Kevin Winkel
Harford, Michigan

Executive Director
Diane Smith
Michigan Apple Committee
13570 S. Sodora Parkwya, Suite 3
Lansing, MI 48906
Ph: 800.456.2753; Fax: 517.669.9506

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Tony Blattner
Lowell, Michigan

Vice Chair
Mark Youngquist
Kent City, Michigan

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Gary Bartley
Douglas, Michigan
Damon Glei
Hillsdale, Michigan
Bob Gregory
Leland, Michigan
Art Lister
Ludington, Michigan
Kevin Winkel
Harford, Michigan

Executive Director
Diane Smith
Michigan Apple Committee
13570 S. Sodora Parkway, Suite 3
Lansing, MI 48906
Ph: 800.456.2753; Fax: 517.669.9506

APPLE RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM ADVISORY BOARD

Chairman
Waitt Blacketer, Apple Acres
4633 Cherry Valley Tp., Lafayette, NY 13084
Ph: 315-677-5144 (W)
willblacketer@gmail.com

Alan Burr
7577 Suyden Settlement Road, Gaspurt, NY 14067
Ph: 585-772-2460; greenapple47@juno.com

Steve Clarke
40 Clariss Lane, Milton, NY 12547
Ph: 845-795-2383; apisteve@jnh.com

Rod Farrow
12766 Kendick Road, Waterport, NY 14571
Ph: 585-589-7022

Mason Forence
2740 Route 22, Peru, NY 12972
Ph: 518-643-9527; forencejim@verizon.net

Ted Furey, Cherry Lawn Farms
8099 Glover Rd., Sodus, NY 14551
Ph: 315-483-8529

Dan McCarthy
NY State Dept. of Agriculture & Markets
108 Airline Drive, Albany, NY 12225
Ph: 518-457-8857; dan.mccarthy@agрыtkt.state.ny.us

Peter Ten Eyk, Indian Ladder Farms
34 Altamont Road
Altamont, NY 12009
Ph: 518-765-2956; pgtf@iail.com

Robert Deemer, Dr. Pepper/Snapple Group
4363 Rte. 104
Williamson, NY 14589
Ph: 315-589-9695 ext. 713

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This publication is a joint effort of the New York State Horticultural Society, Cornell University, New York State Agricultural Experiment Station at Geneva, and the New York State Apple Research and Development Program, Michigan Apple Committee, and the NYBGSA.

Editors
Terence Robinson and Steve Huying
Dept. of Horticulture
New York State Agricultural Experiment Station
Geneva, New York 14456-0462
Ph: 315-787-2227
fr1@cornell.edu; sh1k@cornell.edu

Subscriptions
Karen Wilson
NYSHS, 630 W. North St., Geneva, NY 14456
Ph: 315-787-2404; Fax: 315-787-2216
wilsonk36@hotmail.com

Design
Elaine L. Gotham, Gotham City Design, Naples, NY
Ph: 585-374-9585; elg@icornell.edu

Production
Gemma Osborne, CALS Communications,
NYSAES, Geneva, NY
Ph: 315-787-2248; gn2z@cornell.edu

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Editors
Terence Robinson and Steve Huying
Dept. of Horticulture
New York State Agricultural Experiment Station
Geneva, New York 14456-0462
Ph: 315-787-2227
fr1@cornell.edu; sh1k@cornell.edu

Subscriptions
Karen Wilson
NYSHS, 630 W. North St., Geneva, NY 14456
Ph: 315-787-2404; Fax: 315-787-2216
wilsonk36@hotmail.com

Design
Elaine L. Gotham, Gotham City Design, Naples, NY
Ph: 585-374-9585; elg@icornell.edu

Production
Gemma Osborne, CALS Communications,
NYSAES, Geneva, NY
Ph: 315-787-2248; gn2z@cornell.edu
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Email: Skinne@columbiatractor.com Web: www@columbiatractor.com