

# ***NHC NEWS***

***A Monthly Bulletin of the Northwest Horticultural Council***

## ***Transitions/Awards***

With extensive Washington, D.C. policy experience, **Jennifer Spurgat** has joined the staff of Congressman Doc Hastings of Washington as a new legislative assistant responsible for agriculture and international trade issues.

The National Food Processors Association has as its new vice president for federal government affairs **Mason Wiggins**. Mr. Wiggins is an old friend of the NHC having worked in a number of offices on Capitol Hill including Sid Morrison's, who was in the 1980s the congressman from the Fourth District of Washington.

On July 2, **Dave Carlson** of Wapato was named as the interim manager of the Washington Apple Commission (WAC). Mr. Carlson stepped down from a board position to oversee the operations of the WAC as it adjusts to the aftermath of a federal court case which has resulted in a much reduced budget in support of restricted activities. **Welcome Sauer** concluded his tenure as president of the Commission during July and on the 29th was bestowed with the Golden Apple Award by the directors of the WAC for his service to that organization during a particularly turbulent period of its history.

The Chemical Producers and Distributors Association honored **Christian Schlect** at its annual meeting in Seattle on July 28 with its CPDA Award given each year to someone outside the membership of that national association. Mr. Schlect was recognized for his leadership and contributions to American agriculture, especially in the area of minor use crops.

## ***NHC***

The annual meeting of the Northwest Horticultural Council (NHC) was held on July 24 in Yakima. In leadership elections, Chairman Mike Wade of Wenatchee and Vice Chairman Ed Kershaw of Yakima were re-elected to one year terms. An assessment schedule for the new fiscal year starting July 1 was approved by trustees to fund a budget totaling \$955,753. The Washington Apple Commission portion of this budget was \$481,773. Dave Carlson, interim manager of the Washington Apple Commission, informed NHC trustees that the WAC would meet on July 29 to consider funding requests from at least four industry organizations: the Northwest Horticultural Council; the U.S. Apple Association; the Washington State Horticultural Association; and the Northwest Fruit Exporters. Mr. Carlson indicated that the money available to the WAC would not allow for full funding of all four groups and that cash flow issues would probably dictate delays in the payment of any dues commitments ultimately made by the commission.

On July 29, Chairman Mike Wade and staff of the NHC were present at a meeting of the Industry Affairs Committee of the WAC which met immediately prior to the full commission for a presentation by all four groups seeking funding. After a thorough discussion, the Industry Affairs Committee decided to recommend to the full board of the WAC a reduction of its payments to the NHC for the current fiscal year to \$350,000. The committee recommendation was afterwards accepted by the board.

The leadership of the NHC will now make decisions regarding the expected revenue shortfall of \$131,773. It is anticipated by staff that a

## NHC cont.

combination of selected budget reductions and transfers from reserves will meet the requirements of the current fiscal year. However, it is almost certain that the leadership of the NHC will wish to revisit the dues structure for our organization, given the major changes occurring in state promotion commissions and federal marketing orders as a result of both First Amendment litigation and evolving trends in marketing.

## Website of the month:

The NHC's website, [www.nwhort.org](http://www.nwhort.org), contains an extensive links section to other websites of interest to our work. In July, we added a new area under our links directory entitled "Fruit Varieties/Nurseries." This site organizes information directly connected to the trees that produce the apples, pears, sweet cherries and other deciduous fruits represented by the NHC. Along with commercial information on varieties and nurseries, technical information from the National Plant Germplasm System of the United States Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service is also made available in this new links area of our website.

## Travel

### Chris Schlect

**August 12** – Washington Apple Education Foundation Executive Board Meeting, Wenatchee, Washington.

**August 14** – Wenatchee Traffic Club Golf Tournament, Wenatchee, Washington.

**August 21-24** – USApple's 2003 Apple Crop Outlook and Marketing Conference, Chicago, Illinois.

### Mike Willett

**August 18-22** – Northwest Minor Crops Field Symposium, Yakima, Washington.

**August 21-27** – Technical visit to produce areas by representatives of Taiwan's Bureau of Plant Health Inspection & Quarantine.

...thence how I found

The new created World, which fame in Heav'n  
Long had foretold, a Fabrick wonderful  
Of absolute perfection, therein Man  
Plac't in a Paradise, by our exile  
Made happie: Him by fraud I have seduc'd  
From his Creator, and the more to increase  
Your wonder, with an Apple...

**John Milton**  
*Paradise Lost*

*The Northwest Horticultural Council represents the deciduous tree fruit industry of Idaho, Oregon and Washington on national and international policy matters of interest to growers and shippers. Its members are:*

- *Fruit Growers League*
- *Hood River Grower-Shipper Assn.*
- *Idaho Apple Commission*
- *Oregon Bartlett Pear Commission*
- *Oregon Sweet Cherry Commission*
- *Pacific Northwest Canned Pear Service*
- *Washington Apple Commission*
- *Washington State Fruit Commission*
- *Wenatchee Valley Traffic Assn.*
- *Yakima Valley Growers-Shippers Assn.*

*The NHC also advises the Winter Pear Control Committee (Portland) on certain issues related to food safety, crises control and international trade.*



- **Christian Schlect**, President
- **Mark Powers**, Vice President
- **Michael J. Willett, Ph.D.**, Vice President for Scientific Affairs
- **Jonathan DeVaney**, Director of Legislative and Regulatory Affairs

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