

NHC NEWS

A Monthly Bulletin of the Northwest Horticultural Council

Transitions

On May 12, Agriculture Secretary **Ann Veneman** and U.S. Trade Representative **Robert Zoellick** announced private sector appointees to seven agricultural trade advisory committees. Among those appointed to two-year terms were the NHC's **Chris Schlect** to the Agricultural Policy Advisory Committee for Trade (APAC) and **Mark Powers** to the Agricultural Technical Advisory Committee for Trade (ATAC) in Fruits and Vegetables. Among those joining Mr. Powers on the 35 member ATAC were **Kevin Moffitt** of the Pear Bureau Northwest and **Nancy Foster** of the U.S. Apple Association. At the initial meeting of this newly reconstituted committee on May 14 in Washington, D.C., A. G. Kawamura of California was elected chairman and Mark Powers vice chairman.

Senator Mike Crapo of Idaho announced in May that he had selected **Staci Stevenson** to be a legislative assistant in his office handling primarily environment, agriculture and related issues. Prior to her new job, she had spent four years with Representative Doc Hastings of Washington responsible for similar policy work.

The Alliance for Food and Farming is now being operated by **Marilyn Dolan, Dominique Hansen** and **Teresa Thorne**, all communications experts formerly with either the California Tree Fruit Agreement or California Strawberry Commission. The Alliance is a California-based organization which focuses on food safety and crises communications. In May, the NHC contributed \$1,000 to the work of the Alliance.

TreeTAC

The Tree-Fruit Technical Advisory Council (TreeTAC) decided on May 23 to form two new working groups, one for pears and one for apples. Jim Cranney of the U.S. Apple Association in Vienna, Virginia and Mark Powers of the NHC will serve as co-chairmen for the working group focused on apples, while Mr. Powers will also lead the pear effort. In terms of pears, TreeTAC now represents virtually all the U.S. commercial production of that commodity with the addition to TreeTAC membership of the California Pear Advisory Board, under the leadership of Chris Zanobini, and with the production areas of Oregon and Washington as already represented by the Northwest Horticultural Council. Jerry Hill of the Washington, D.C. law firm of McDermott, Will & Emery, has been retained by TreeTAC to assist in its efforts at ensuring that countries seeking new access to the U.S. market for their apples and pears meet all established phytosanitary and food safety standards.



Mr. Hastings

Congressman Doc Hastings from the 4th District of Washington visited the Northwest Horticultural Council in Yakima on May 28. NHC staff brought to Mr. Hastings' attention both an update on the work of TreeTAC, as well as a package of certain proposed technical changes to federal marketing order legislation currently being advanced by the pear and cherry industries.



Website of the Month:

The NHC's website, www.nwhort.org, contains an extensive links section to other websites of interest to our work. This month's featured site, <http://vm.cfsan.fda.gov>, is that of the Center for Food Safety & Applied Nutrition at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. This site covers a number of issues with impacts on the tree fruit industry, including information on the Bioterrorism Act of 2002 and a new Produce and Import Initiative under FDA's National Food Safety Programs.



Travel

Chris Schlect

June 3 – Washington Apple Education Foundation's charity golf tournament, Desert Canyon, Orondo, Washington.

Mark Powers

June 5-6 – Agriculture Ocean Transportation Coalition (AgOTC) annual meeting, San Francisco, California.

Mike Willett

June 1-3 – National Agricultural Biotechnology Council's conference "Biotechnology: Science & Society at a Crossroad," Seattle, Washington.

This triumvirate in New York, with Ben Bradlee in Washington, essentially remade [Newsweek]. Oz recalled the excitement at the time—the Kennedy era was dawning and the World War II generation was coming into its own....Gordon remembers those months after the purchase as one of the most exciting ever: "When you got out of bed in the morning, you'd say, 'Hey, the world is my apple.'"

Katharine Graham
Personal History

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*
- *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 & Regulatory Affairs

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