

The Fruit Growers News chooses 11 for its new editorial board

The Fruit Growers News has established a new editorial advisory board. Members come from different regions of the country and were selected for their knowledge and expertise and their willingness to serve as eyes and ears for the publication.

Members of the advisory board include:

Mike Biltonen, Stone Ridge, N.Y., uses "progressive ecological farming methods" while growing apples, peaches, raspberries, Asian pears, red currants and strawberries. His blog organicschmorganic.blogspot.com is a place to discuss organic farming ideas.

Tim Byrne, Roseville, Minn., is vice president for sales and marketing at Pepin Heights, Minnesota's largest apple producer and a packer and retailer of some of the newest apple varieties.

John R. Clark, Fayetteville, Ark., is professor of horticulture at the University of Arkansas. His research focuses on fruit breeding and genetics, where he conducts variety improvement work in blackberries, table grapes, muscadine grapes, blueberries, peaches and nectarines. He teaches plant breeding and fruit production and manages the intellectual property rights of the Arkansas fruit breeding program.

Jane Eckert, St. Louis, Mo., runs Eckert AgriMarketing. Her firm helps farmers develop their operations into agritourism destinations.

Ray Fuller, Chelan, Wash., is a producer of organically grown apples, pears and cherries, farming about 115 acres.

Wanda Heuser Gale, Lawrence, Mich., is vice president of sales and marketing at Summit Tree Sales. A horticulturalist, Wanda has a lifetime of experience in the fruit industry and works with commercial growers to help select varieties, rootstocks and planting systems.

Randii MacNear, Davis, Calif., manages the Davis Farmers' Market and is co-founder and vice president of the California Federation of Certified Farmers' Markets.

Nathan Milburn, Elkton, Md., manages production on a 400-acre, fourth-generation fruit farm. He and three cousins grow apples, peaches, cherries, berries and pumpkins and operate a farm market and agritourism destination.

Nathan Nourse, South Deerfield, Mass., is sales and marketing manager for Nourse Farms, a premier grower of small fruit plants. Nourse Farms has produced high-quality, dormant, bare-root plants for commercial growers and home gardeners for more than 75 years.

Jim Nugent, Suttons Bay, Mich., recently retired after 30 years with Michigan State University Extension and the Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station. For 15 years, he was coordinator of the Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Station. He and his wife have been farming for 27 years and currently grow tart and sweet cherries.

Bob Scowcroft, Santa Cruz, Calif., is executive director and co-founder of the Organic Farming Research Foundation, which works for the improvement and adoption of organic farming practices.

For more information, e-mail Assistant Editor Dick Lehnert at news@fruitgrowersnews.com or call (616) 887-9008 ext. 107.

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