2019 Heritage Orchard Conference — Discussion Session

- How, as a group, can we collaborate regionally?
  - Throughout the year, prior to the next meeting
  - Topics chosen for discussion via survey
    - Preservation of tree genetics
    - Genetic identification
  - Collaboration areas
    - Discovery of lost apple cultivars
    - Historical documentation
    - Identification

- Tree Identification and Genetics
  - Needs
    - Database and a collective list of individual databases
      - Including genetic information, identification, historical documentation, scion availability
    - Better communication systems for achievements
    - Collective software
      - Would allow for an apple cultivar database
    - Website
      - Could also be used as a database
    - Keys for identification of common heirloom varieties
    - Outreach to state nursery associations, extension offices and other similar programs to make them aware of ongoing projects and achievements
      - Some concern over working with nurseries in terms of apple patents or licensing
    - Including quality, traits, and descriptors of apple cultivars in catalogues
      - Describe what the apple was historically used for
    - An appropriate organization to house multi-state efforts and projects
      - Inland Northwest Fruit Net Explorers (for example)
      - Use this network to decide an appropriate scope of the database and projects

- Funding
  - Western Sustainable Agriculture Communication grant through the USDA
    - This has a large emphasis on sustainability
  - Western SARE program
  - Cider Industry
    - Reach out to the cider industry to determine need and common goals
  - Northwest Cider Association
  - Funding needed to cover genetic profiling
o Action Item
  ▪ Form an exploratory committee to have a source of funding, to establish a collaborative effort (with member representing each state involved) and to determine project goals and needs
  ▪ Begin to cultivate an orchard with all the identified Heirloom apple varieties from the Inland Northwest
    ● This orchard could be a place to bring apple to for identification and comparisons, prevent redundant identification and grow out Heirloom apples in good conditions to properly identify apples

o Items for the next meeting
  ▪ Form a committee to choose meeting topics and explore different interests
    ● Morphological apple identification workshop
    ● Apple taste analysis
    ● Tree propagation workshop
    ● Tree identification workshop
    ● Potentially tour an orchard
  ▪ Preferably host the meeting in the fall
  ▪ Specific speakers
    ● Invite cideries to be involved in the meeting
  ▪ Do a follow up survey after this meeting to help determine some of the individual goals
  ▪ Travel
    ● Most people are willing to travel around six hours by car
  ▪ Potentially expand the conference to two days