

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

- **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
- **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