

NEW YORK FRUIT QUARTERLY

Editorial

Thank You Bob Andersen

In honor of Bob Andersen's retirement and long and effective efforts with the NY fruit industry, we organized a symposium on Stone Fruit Breeding and Culture in the Northeastern US which was held March 18th and 19th at Geneva. Experts from around the country attended and presented their research. This issue and the next of the NY Fruit Quarterly will feature the papers that were given at the symposium. This issue focuses on cherries while the next issue will focus on peaches and plums. These papers represent the most up-to-date research and the current recommendations from Cornell for growing stone fruits.

Fruit growers in NY State are very interested in diversifying the fruit crops grown on their farms. Sweet cherries are a high value alternative crop. There is a large and lucrative market in the Northeast for high quality sweet cherries; however, cherry production and quality can be inconsistent. The main causes of that inconsistency are rain-induced cracking, bird damage, low yields, high tree mortality and poor postharvest management. If we could solve these problems, NY growers could become consistent suppliers of high quality cherries and expand their acreage of this crop. This issue offers numerous strategies for solving the problems of sweet cherries production in NY State. We hope these papers will assist you in evaluating stone fruits as alternative crops for you farm.

With Bob Andersen's retirement from Cornell University, the Cornell Fruit Team loses a invaluable asset. Bob is known worldwide as an expert on stone fruit breeding, varieties and culture and has been an invited speaker to many fruit growing areas of the world. His worldwide contacts have helped make new varieties and rootstocks available to NY growers. His efforts have helped the NY stone industry develop new vitality.

Bob began his 40-year career in fruit breeding as a graduate student in 1964 at Michigan State University where he earned his Masters degree. He received his PhD degree from the University of Minnesota. The first third of his professional career was spent at Michigan State University where he focused on peach breeding. The second third was spent in department administration first at Clemson University and then at Cornell University. And the last third began in 1990 when he took over the stone fruit breeding and management program at Cornell where he has focused his research and extension efforts in the area of sweet cherry, plum and apricot breeding, cherry, pear, plum, and peach rootstock evaluation, and peach, pear, cherry, plum and apricot variety evaluation.

Through Bob's leadership, stone fruit research and extension has become an important part of the Cornell Fruit Program. Bob always had many ideas about research problems and was very effective in convincing his colleagues to work with him on the problems. He was extremely effective with the stone fruit industry and worked tirelessly to organize the stone fruit growers to help themselves through funding research projects. His vast experience and knowledge of stone fruits made him an invaluable resource to field agents and faculty and growers.

On behalf of the fruit faculty, extension field staff and the fruit industry in New York, we thank you Bob and wish him a successful retirement. You will always be a member of our team Bob.

Terence Robinson and Steve Hoying
Editors

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FRONT COVER: This issue of the Fruit Quarterly celebrates the many facets of the career of Bob Andersen.

BACK COVER: Pictured here are two cherry varieties developed and named by Bob Andersen - Black York on the upper right and Blushing Gold on the lower left. The remaining two photos depict cherry harvest in August 2005 at the Geneva Experiment Station.

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