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THE FLATHEAD LAKE
CHERRY GROWERS, INC

A MONTANA AGRICULTURAL
COOPERATIVE SINCE 1935

The Flathead Lake Cherry Growers®
"Quickview Review"

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER 2ND QUARTER 2016

2016

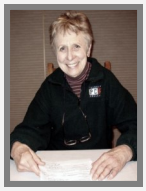
IMPORTANT DATES

FLCG
Spring Grower Meeting
Saturday, April 16

Yellow Bay
Cherry
Blossom Festival
Saturday, May 14

FLCG
Pre-Harvest
Grower Meeting
Saturday, June 25

Polson
Main Street
Flathead Lake
Cherry Festival
Sat. & Sun. July 16-17



FLCG
Administrator
Barb Hammons

Editor /Publisher
Ken Edgington

From The President

Bruce Johnson

Who would of predicted an early spring two years in a row? I thought last year's harvest that started about July 8th was one for the books, but it appears that we are going to be close to that again.

The good news is that Washington's cherry crop is also early and if you have been in the grocery stores lately you will see that California cherries are already in the produce sections. So, hopefully their fruit will be winding down by the time ours is starting?

The big difference with our cherries this year is that with the amount of moisture we have had, the trees are in great shape. The other is the amount of fruit that is set this year, wow a lot of cherries! Those bees did a heck of a job this year and maybe even too good?

Thanks to all of you who came to the spring meeting this year, we had a great turnout and lots of good information on growing quality cherries.

The Tabletree juice project is progressing. A lot of work has been done at the Finley Point warehouse. If you would like more details about Tabletree juice and Gary and Susan Snow please give them a call at 982-3042.

80th Annual FLCG Growers' Meeting

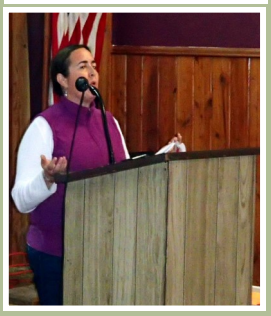
On Saturday, May 14, 2016 the Flathead Lake Cherry Growers, Inc. celebrated their 80th Annual Growers' Meeting.

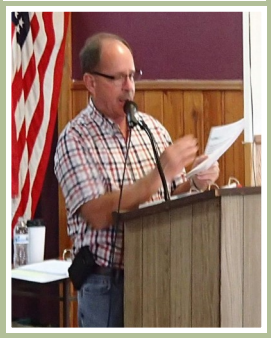
Dr. Matt Whiting, WSU world renown cherry consultant, lecturer and author, was the guest speaker. Dr. Whiting spoke on the physiological principles for growing top quality fruit.

In addition to Dr. Whiting's presentation there were several other presentations covering subject matter important to cherry growers ranging from crop Insurance to the use of Falconry based bird abatement to scare pesky birds from orchards.

<u>Presenters from 12 o'clock and moving counter clockwise:</u>

Dr. Matt Whiting, (WSU—Program's Main Speaker)
Bruce Johnson, (President, FLCG)
Gerry Wolff (Crop Insurance)
Gary and Susan Snow (Tabletree Montana,LLC)
Will Bodle (Montana Rural Education Opportunities)
Dawn Cardone (Lead Appraiser, MT Dept. of Revenue)
Grower & Public Attendees at the meeting
Brad Felger (Master Falconer—Airstrike Bird Control)
Phil Nelson (Monson Fruit Co. GAP Consultant)
Kima Caddell (EPA Worker Protection Standards)
Ed Daugherty (County Executive-Farm Services Agency)
Bob Sandman (FLCG Board Of Director)





Ag Day For Lake County Montana by Dick Beighle

Ag Day for Lake County, Montana has been an event for many years; however, 2016 is the first time the local Flathead Lake Cherry Growers organization has participated with a display and seminar for the area kids. Dick and Bernie Beighle designed and worked the display offering an insight to all that goes into growing Montana's Premium Flathead cherries. Dick is one of the Board of Directors for The Flathead Lake Cherry Growers, Inc. (a Montana Agricultural Cooperative since 1935).

The display used a video produced by The Flathead Lake Cherry Growers, Inc. along with posters and other cherry related items. It also allowed each person visiting the display to taste sweet cherry juice provided by Tabletree Montana LLC., a Montana juice company. The kids loved it!

Over the 2-day event, small groups of kids rotated from one display to another. Smaller groups allowed each child to get close to the display so they could see the video, hear Dick's remarks and ask their questions. They learned how important honey bees, weather, hardworking migrant workers and the selection of the best cherry tree varieties are to growing Montana premium cherries. They learned that rain at harvest time could be a big problem, and were amazed to find out helicopters are used to blow the rain off the cherry trees, when necessary.

Dick summed up the event saying,

"These kids were really interested in what it takes to grow Flathead cherries. Who knows—maybe some of them will be our next generation cherry farmers!"

FLCG/Tabletree/Monson Announce Joint Project

On Monday, March 21, 2016 a public meeting was held at the Yellow Bay Community Clubhouse, mile marker 18 on Montana Highway 35. The meeting announced a joint project between The Flathead Lake Cherry Growers, Inc., Tabletree Montana LLC, and Monson Fruit Company of Selah, Washington. The project, partially supported by a Montana Department of Agriculture grant, will set up a facility at the FLCG warehouse on Finley Point to juice those Flathead Cherries called "culls" that don't qualify for the Premium Fresh Pack market. Until now growers have not had a way of making a return on their culls. Tabletree's juices have won awards worldwide. Their process uses proprietary equipment and an exclusive method so their juice does not oxidize over time like other juices.

Dr. Matt Whiting Speaks To Cherry Growers

Dr. Matt Whiting was the main speaker at The Flathead Lake Cherry Growers' 80th Annual Cherry Growers' Meeting in Yellow Bay, Montana. Dr. Whiting is Associate Professor/Scientist and Extension Specialist, Dept. of Horticulture, Washington State University.

Topics Dr. Whiting covered for Montana cherry growers included:

- Whole-Tree Physiology
- Pollination Biology and Artificial Pollination
- Fruit Handling to Reduce Damage

Falcons Used To Scare Birds From Orchards

Brad Felger, Master Falconer, and owner of the Washington based company called Airstrike Bird Control, Inc. spoke to Montana cherry growers about how falcons can be used to scare damage-causing birds from commercial orchards. The technique is not to kill birds, but because most birds fear falcons they leave and take up residence elsewhere, thus not pecking on and ruining orchard fruit. Brad not only spoke during the 80th Annual Growers' Meeting, but put on a field demonstration with one of his falcons at the residence of Barbara Hammons in Yellow Bay.

FLCG Website Seen Around The World

As of This Newsletter, FLCG's website has had visitors from the following 135 countries.
(Names in Red represent the top 10 countries providing the most visitors to our site)

Afganistan	Cambodia	Germany	Laos	Paraguay	Sweden
Albania	Cameroon	Greece	Lebanon	Peru	Switzerland
Algeria	Canada	Guatemala	Lesotho	Philippines	Syria
Angola	Cayman Islands	Herzegovina	Lithuania	Poland	Tajikistan
Argentina	Czeck Republic	Hungary	Macedonia	Portugal	Tanzania
Armenia	Chile	Honduras	Malaysia	Puerto Rico	Taiwan
Australia	China	Hong Kong	Maldives	Qatar	Thailand
Austria	Columbia	Iceland	Mauritius	Réunion	Trinadad/Tobago
Azerbaijan	Croatia	India	Mexico	Romania	Tunisia
Bahamas	Curacao	Indonesia	Moldova	Russia	Turkey
Bangladesh	Cyprus	Iran	Mongolia	Rwanda	Turks/Caicos Isl.
Barbados	Denmark	Ireland	Morocco	Saudi Arabia	Ukraine
Belarus	Djibouti	Israel	Mozambique	Serbia	U. A. Emirates
Belgium	Dominican Rep	Italy	Myamar	Singapore	United Kingdom
Belize	Ecuador	Japan	Netherlands	Slovakia	United States
Bolivia	Egypt	Jamaica	New Zealand	Slovenia	Uruguay
Bosnia	El Salvador	Jordan	Nicaragua	South Africa	Venezuela
Brazil	Estonia	Kazakhstan	Nigeria	South Korea	Vietnam
British Virgin Isl.	France	Kyrgyzstan	Norway	Spain	Zambia
Bulgaria	French Guiana	Kenya	Oman	St. Lucia	Zimbabwe
Burma	Finland	Kosovo	Pakistan	South Africa	
Brunei	Gabon	Kuwait	Panama	Sri Lanka	
Burundi	Georgia	Latvia	Papua N Guinea	Sudan	

Test Your Montana Farm & Ranch Trivia

In Montana For The Year 2015

1. Total number of farms/ranches was:

(a) 27,500 (b) 32,567

2. Total acres in farms/ranches was:

(a) 25.7 million (b) 59.7 million

3. The average size farm/ranch was:

(a) 1,536 acres (b) 2,171 acres

Answers: 1 = (a) 2 =(b) 3 =(b)]

FLATHEAD LAKE CHERRY GROWERS®
A Montana Agricultural Cooperative (since 1935)

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