

THE KENTUCKY COLONELS ‘KERNEL’

“Scion” of the Kentucky Nut Growers Association
Kirk W. Pomper and Sheri B. Crabtree – Editor/Publisher
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Fall 2023
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KENTUCKY NUT GROWER’S ASSOCIATION

FALL MEETING

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2023

BENTON, KY

A Date to Remember: The Fall meeting of the Kentucky Nut Growers Association will be held on **Saturday, October 28, 2023** at the Marshall County Extension Office, 1933 Mayfield Hwy., Benton, KY 42025 at **9:30 a.m. C.T.** Phone: 270-527-3285

See driving directions and additional information on page 2.

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**KENTUCKY NUT GROWER'S ASSOCIATION FALL MEETING
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2023**

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Directions:

From the East

From the Western Kentucky Parkway (I-69) take exit 68B for I-24 W/I-69 S towards Paducah. (16 miles)

Take exit 25A for I-69 S toward Fulton (0.9 miles)

Merge on to I-69. (9.6 miles)

Take exit 41 for US-641 Spur toward Hardin/Murray (0.9 miles).

Continue onto US-641 Spur S (0.2 miles).

Turn right onto Mayfield Hwy (Rt-58). The Marshall County Extension Office will be on your Left (0.2 miles).

From the west (Mayfield)

Take the Purchase Parkway (I-69) to exit 41 for US-641 Spur S toward Hardin/Murray.

Turn right on to Mayfield Hwy (Rt 58) W. (0.6 miles)

The Marshall County Extension Office will be on your left. (0.2 miles)

There will be a potluck luncheon, and everyone is asked to bring a side dish. Participants are encouraged to bring nut exhibits and nuts for tasting. A fundraising auction is not planned, but we will have door prizes, so door prize contributions are welcome.

Contact: John Strang 859-396-9311

Program: (All times are C.T.)

9:30 a.m. Registration/Meet and Greet

10:00 a.m. Board meeting, Membership Visiting and Nut Exhibits

11:00 a.m. Business Meeting and Announcements

11:15 a.m. Fruit and Nut Notes - John Strang

11:30 a.m. Ambrosia Beetles in Fruits and Nurseries and Stink Bugs, A New Pest in Western Kentucky - Dr. Raul Villanueva, UKREC, Princeton, KY

12 Noon Potluck Luncheon. KNGA will provide the meat, and everyone is asked to bring a side dish. If you bring something that will need to be heated or warmed, there is a well-equipped kitchen available.

1:00 p.m. Question and Answer Session and Door Prizes

Anyone that has an interest in nuts and nut trees is welcome to attend.

The KNGA spring meeting will be held Saturday, April 20, 2024 at the Kentucky State University Harold R. Benson Research & Demonstration Farm, 1525 Mills Ln., Frankfort, KY 40601.

Fred Blankenship's Hickory Variety Notes and Observations

Below are listed many shagbark, shellbark, hybrid hickory and a few hican varieties that Fred Blankenship is familiar with. Fred is the Kentucky Nut Growers Association, "Chairman of Hickories" and has spent many years observing, collecting, selecting, and naming hickory varieties. He is considered one of the leading authorities on hickories in the eastern United States and has judged nut entries at the Kentucky State Fair and Pennsylvania competitions.

Fred is an avid grafter and has established many of these varieties on his farm in Cecelia Kentucky. He has freely provided scion wood to many hickory enthusiasts. These are Fred's latest variety notes, observations, and recommendations. Thanks is extended to David Hughes (Rock Bridge Trees, Bethpage, TN) for his observations on Wurth and Wilmoth and to the late John Brittain for nut descriptions in his Nolin River Nut Tree Nursery catalogue.

Shagbark hickory leaves normally have 5 leaflets, but may range from 3 to 5 while shellbark hickories have larger leaves with 7 leaflets, ranging from 5-9.

Shagbark

***Blankenship Bernheim Grainger #1 (BBG-1)** – Fred Blankenship Bernheim Grainger seedling approximately 25 years old in 2020, good cavity, collectable.

***Blankenship Bernheim Grainger #5 (BBG-5)** - Seedling of Bernheim Grainger planted by Fred Blankenship. Annual bearer, nice cavity, good flavor. Tree was approximately 25 years old in 2020.

Bridgewater - CT. A very large shagbark (8.5 grams) with 46.6% kernel. Carl Weschcke recommended this variety for the far north.

Blankenship Cook Shag - From Meade County Kentucky along Highway 79 at Midway. Thin shelled nuts that crack out whole halves. (Formerly Cook)

Crooked Creek - From Nelson County, Kentucky close to a Mitch Russell tree.

Fred's Rocket - Found in the wild. Good cavity with 2 ribs.

***Grainger** - TN 1935 large (10 grams) thin shelled nut with high percent kernel. Bears heavily and produces early. Has a lobed husk with false sutures. Late foliating and one of the best varieties.

***J. Yoder # 1** - Smithfield, OH. Emmet Yoder. Regular producer of very large (8.5 grams) thin shelled nuts that crack out in whole halves. Precocious and bears heavily. Alternate bearing.

***Lake Icaria** - Round nut with a smooth interior and a fine flavor. Very nice shagbark from Lake Icaria, Iowa.

***Lorraine** - Similar and confused with Grainger, but better. Lorraine has a rounder nut, smaller suture ridge with a better filled kernel and smoother husk. It is more productive, a consistent producer with outstanding crackability. It has more foliage and larger leaves with a longer taper than Grainger. One of the best varieties.

L&N - First shagbark hickory Fred Blankenship entered in the Kentucky State Fair and won.

Neilson - Originated near Waterford, Ontario. Large well filled nut with moderate cracking quality. Annually productive and early maturing. Pollen sterile.

***Porter** - Medium sized shagbark with good cracking characteristics, 8.5 gram kernel and good flavor.

Porter Seedling - Fred Blankenship selection, annual bearing.

***Retzer** - Thin shell, highly flavored, very good nut meats that are eight plus grams.

Raudabaugh - Thin shell. Starts to mature as leaves turn brown.

Ryan - Seedling of Neilson at Grimo Nut Nursery

Seas - PA. Promoted by Charles Tharcher as one of the better shagbarks. Nut averages 7-8 grams and 40-45% kernel. Could be a Grainger seedling.

Silvis 303 - West Richfield, OH. Ray Silvis introduced this large (8 grams), round thin shelled nut of good quality and 45% kernel. Self-pollinating and a good producer.

Walters - KY 1980 A very large nut with excellent cracking qualities.

Wilcox - Geneva, OH. 1934. Early maturing, medium sized nuts (4.9 grams), 41% kernel, which crack out in whole halves. One of the best producers. Protogynous, good northern variety.

***Wilmoth** - Glendale, KY 1978. Selected by Leslie Wilmoth. Thin-shelled and shells out in mostly halves. Kernel is large, light colored with a good flavor. Good producer and similar to Yoder in size.

Wurth - Paducah, KY. 1978. Large thin shelled asymmetrical nut with offset lobes that is pointed at one end. Cracks out whole halves. Flavor ok and a good producer. Vigorous growing tree.

Shellbark

Big Cypress - IN. 1985. Very large nut, productive, does not crack out well. Found by Charles Spurgeon in S.W. Indiana.

***Brouse** - Good cracker, found in a pasture with Bullnut and Rausch close to Zanesville, OH. Collected by Bud Luers.

Bullnut - Large nut, kernel is trapped by shell and does not crack out well. Good pollinator, early bearing and productive. Found in a pasture with Brouse and Rausch close to Zanesville, OH. Collected by Bud Luers.

***Daulton** - KY. 1987. A very vigorous growing variety with large leaves and twigs that produces very large nuts.

Dewey Moore - OH. 1987. A.M. Cox selection is a moderate producer of thin shelled nuts with 33% kernel.

***Fayette** - PA. 1932. Large, thin shelled nut, introduced by Fayette Etter with 33% kernel. The kernel has good flavor and cracks out well. Tree bears annually and it is one of the few varieties that will self-pollinate. A nice tree for the front yard.

Florin Smith - Large shellbark with ribs.

***Henning** - West central, IL. A fast-growing shellbark with a large very attractive nut, similar to Scholl.

Henry - Very large shellbark. An annual producer with a well filled nut that cracks out well.

***Holterman** - Central MO. Large nut, with a thick shell that placed third in nut contest.

***Keystone** - Franklin County, PA. 1955. Fayette Etter's best cracking, large thin shelled, shellbark. Kernel falls free from the shell, annual bearer, late vegetation. Keystone normally has 9 leaflets, but the Grimo Nursery selection has 7 leaflets. Grimo selection turned out to be Etter hican. Tyler Halvin, Fred Blankenship and Zach Elfers proved this. The Etter hican is a Weschcke X McAllister cross.

***Kreider** - Very large nut with a light colored very good tasting kernel.

***Lebanon Junction (L J)** - KY Lebanon Junction. Large smooth nut (38 grams) Nice, sweet tasting kernel that cracks out well. Early season. Twig girdlers like this tree. Took first place in the Kentucky State Fair.

Lindauer - IL. Very heavy producer of large nuts which crack out whole halves. Medium shell thickness and this clone is reported to be precocious and weevil resistant. Healthy foliage. Productive, but does not have as good a flavor.

Longnecker - Has ribs but cracks out well. 90% of nuts have weevils. Has 5 leaflets.

***Merle's Best** - Large shellbark with a nice cavity and good flavor. Found by Merle Winter in IL. Cracks out well, heavy dark green foliage.

Preston 7 - Eugene Ulrich's favorite shellbark, Grand Chain, IL.

Rausch - Very thin shell, good cavity, found in a pasture with Brouse and Bullnut near Zanesville, OH. Collected by Bud Luers. Hull 3" X 3", nut 2" X 1.5"

***Scholl** - Large nut that cracks well with a good-flavored kernel. Rarely has weevils.

***Selbbers** - From IA. A regular and heavy bearing short season variety, producing nuts 1.5 inches long with excellent cracking qualities. High quality kernels. Excellent orchard variety.

***Simpson No. 1** - Heavy cropping variety with medium sized nuts that easily crack out beautiful, tasty kernels, excellent cavity, produces lots of pollen. Crack end to end when dried out. Rarely has weevils.

Sinda - From northern OH, nut fractures to produce two halves, has good flavor.

Stephens - Very large nut, parent of Kreider.

T5 - KY 2004. Seedling of Simpson #1, From the Tinsley farm close to where Simpson #1 was found. Round nut with a two lobed kernel. Squirrels usually get this one in the milk stage. Weevil prone.

Hybrids

Abundance - Franklin County PA. discovered by Fayette Etter, this shellbark x shagbark hybrid produces a shagbark type nut of large size (7 grams) with 36% kernel. Annual bearing thin shelled variety shows good cracking qualities.

***Mitch Russell** - Bloomfield, KY 1995. Fred Blankenship discovery. Original tree over 150 years old. Nut is medium size, fills well and kernel is light in color. Harvests mid-season and good to crack any time. Has leaves with 5 or 7 leaflets. Probably self-pollinates.

Weschcke - Fayette, IA 1928. Bitter nut x shagbark Consistent producer of medium sized nuts, 53% kernel, which crack out in whole halves. Early maturing northern variety. Does not get weevils in KY like it does up north according to the late John Brittain. Pollen-sterile.

Hican

***Etter Hican** - Weschcke x MacAllister A large flat hican with good production. Tyler Halvin and Fred Blankenship originally called this Grimo 5.

***Hoagland** - Large nut, excellent cavity.

MacAllister - Pecan x shellbark, likes wet ground to fill.

***Highly recommended**

Shellbark varieties take longer to produce than shagbark varieties. Hickory nuts may be floated to remove nuts that haven't filled. Crack shellbarks within a month of harvest as the shell gets very hard.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

November 9-11, 2023. North American Fruit Explorers virtual conference. Save the dates and plan to join the North American Fruit Explorers for the NAFEX 2023 Virtual Conference, featuring three days of inspiring and informative online sessions for fruit growers, November 9-11, via ZOOM or by phone. Please check www.nafex.org for more information about the 2023 conference later this year. Conference Session Dates and Times: Thursday, Nov. 9 at 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. ET; Friday, Nov. 10 at 12 p.m., 2 p.m., 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. ET; Saturday, Nov. 11 at Noon and 2 p.m. ET. Registration: FREE for current NAFEX members, and \$19 for non-members.

November 11, 2023. Hickman Pecan Festival, Hickman, KY. November 11, 2023, 9:00am-8:00pm. For more information, to volunteer, or to apply to be a vendor, email hrtcc42050@gmail.com

November 16-18, 2023. Kentucky Small, Limited-Resource, Minority Farmers Conference. Kentucky State's Small, Limited-Resource, Minority Farmers Conference is a gathering of farmers from Kentucky and the Southern US. This year's theme is "Planting Ideas, Harvesting Success." November 16 · 10am - November 18 · 3pm EST. Location: Harold R. Benson Research and Demonstration Farm, 1525 Mills Lane Frankfort, KY 40601. Registration for this conference is required and costs \$50. That fee covers your attendance at all three days of the conference as well as four meals. For more information, call (502) 597-6566.

December 2, 2023. Indiana Nut Growers Association 2023 Business Meeting & 75th Anniversary Celebration. Saturday, Dec. 2nd, Fitness Farm, 2525 W 44th St, Indianapolis, IN 46228. Guests are welcome! 11:00 - 3:30 pm: Networking at 11:00, Lunch at Noon, Election, Auction, Guest Speaker. Directions will be provided in the November INFGA Kernel, or contact infgainfo@gmail.com for more info.

January 2-4, 2024. Kentucky Fruit and Vegetable Conference. Mark your calendars, the Kentucky Fruit and Vegetable Conference returns to the Sloan Convention Center at 1021 Wilkinson Trace in Bowling Green, KY 42103. The event will start with a pre-conference workshop on Tuesday, Jan. 2nd with the main conference educational sessions and trade show being held on Wednesday and Thursday, Jan. 3rd and 4th.

April 20, 2024. KNGA spring meeting. Kentucky State University Harold R. Benson Research & Demonstration Farm, 1525 Mills Ln., Frankfort, KY 40601. More information to come in the Spring 2024 Kernel.

Annual Dues Information

NOTICE: the year listed immediately after your address label indicates the year through which your membership dues are paid. Please note that dates highlighted in pink indicate that your KNGA membership is past due. Please renew your membership. Thanks!

KNGA ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

Would you like to receive the KNGA Newsletter electronically? This would enable you to see photos in color, easily follow internet links, and save paper. If you would like to receive the newsletter via email, please send your name and email address to sheri.crabtree@kysu.edu.

Please check out the **Kentucky Nut Growers Association Facebook Page** at:
<https://www.facebook.com/Kentucky-Nut-Growers-Association-1599224510355036/>

The **Fruit and Nut Cultivar Nursery Sources List** and is available at
https://www.uky.edu/hort/sites/www.uky.edu.hort/files/documents/HortFact_3002_2020.pdf , or ask your county extension office to print a hard copy.



KENTUCKY NUT GROWERS ASSOCIATION
Lucky Pittman
4618 Harmony Grove Rd.
Hopkinsville, KY 42240

FIRST CLASS

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
KENTUCKY NUT GROWERS ASSOCIATION**

**TO: Lucky Pittman
4618 Harmony Grove Road
Hopkinsville, KY 42240**

DATE _____

☐ **NEW MEMBER**

☐ **RENEWAL**

☐ **CHANGE OF ADDRESS**

NAME _____

ST OR RFD _____

CITY _____ **STATE** _____ **ZIP** _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

OCCUPATION _____ **COUNTY** _____

AMT. ENCLOSED FOR DUES \$ _____ **FOR YEAR(S)** _____

Dues are \$5.00 for one year. Annual membership begins January 1st. New members joining after July 1st shall be credited as paid in full for the next calendar year.) For additional information about joining KNGA, contact John Strang at (859) 396-9311 or jstrang@uky.edu.