



PAWPAW

PICKIN'S

Volume 8, Issue 1

Spring 2008

Spring meeting—May 24, 2008

Richard Glaser will host this year's activities at his home in Wilmington, Ohio. The annual Ohio Pawpaw Growers Association spring workshop and meeting will be held on Saturday, May 24, 2008 from 10 am to 3 pm.

Richard has planned an exciting variety of activities, that will include: scion wood exchange, grafting demonstration, hands-on grafting, tour of improved native pawpaw patches and future orchard plantings, lunch, and the annual meeting. See the included flyer for registration and directions.

Is it time?

As our organization and the pawpaw industry grows, we must begin to think about how we can improve our services to our clientele (customers). Two such areas are networking and tracking production / products produced. Is it time for us to begin reporting on production and processing levels of the pawpaws? We are receiving more and more calls from individuals and businesses for fresh fruit, frozen pulp, and other value added pawpaw products. We must continue our efforts to reach out to pawpaw producers in other states to establish a network of pawpaw producers that will improve our ability to meet customer needs. Just basics, such as: who has pawpaw seeds, seedlings, grafted plants, fresh fruit, frozen pulp, processed fruit, etc. for sale? Grafted pawpaws are extremely tight this year because of the draught in the south last year. Do we need to create a data base for pawpaws products and post on a web-site.? I believe so, so, what are your thoughts?

President's Patch

If you haven't checked out our revised web site, Ohiopawpaw.com, please do so. Our web master has worked very hard to completely rework our web site. It is not completely finished and new features will be added such as a calendar, updated monthly, and we will continue to add new pictures. We will also be selling hats and shirts which sport a "new" fun logo (not our official logo).



Be sure to send us your pictures, comments, and pawpaw related activities so that we can add them to the web site.

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Check your mailing label to see when your dues are due.

Mission Statement

OPGA is an organization of pawpaw enthusiasts and pawpaw growers, small and large, dedicated to promoting the superior traits of the pawpaw plant and fruit, developing a pawpaw industry and marketing plan, preserving and studying the wild pawpaw genetics in Ohio.

OPGA Growth

by
Terry Powell

In 2007 we reached out and touched more people than ever with pawpaw information and pawpaw bread and cookies. And we learned that folks are hungry for more! However, our success is certainly causing us growing pains. The number of appearance dates on the Ohio Pawpaw Growers Association calendar is growing and our core of volunteers is maxed out! Since the demand for OPGA participation is greater than our current number of volunteers can meet, we would like to request YOUR help at one or more of our OPGA events. Please give us a call. With additional volunteers, we can meet the coming demand and hopefully increase our presence and thus introduce others to the wonderful world of pawpaws.

Here are specific opportunities for you to become involved. We are looking for people to submit articles for our newsletter, and we're also looking for a newsletter editor. At our events we need people to man a display table, sell a few hats, cut and distribute pawpaw bread or fresh fruit. The events we support draw hundreds—frequently thousands—of people. These are typically family friendly, and if you can share a couple hours of your time, you or your family can also have time to enjoy the event. We ask for people to work in shifts so it isn't a burden, and many hands will certainly lighten the load.

We realize our membership is far-flung. If you live within 50 miles of Cincinnati, please consider volunteering some of your time at these events: American Heritage Days (May 15-17), or at the Great Outdoors Weekend (September 27 & 28). If you are within 50 miles of London, Ohio, consider helping at the Farm Science Review (September 16-18).

You do not have to be an expert to volunteer—your enthusiasm for pawpaws will be sufficient. Materials will be provided and already set up. We need to know if you can volunteer as soon as possible (not later than a week before the event) so we can make a schedule.

If there are large events in your area that highlight horticulture, agriculture, the outdoors, and you would like to help spread the word about pawpaws, please let us know.

Please call Ron or Terry at 513-777-8367 or contact us at our revised web site:

Ohiopawpaw.com

Personal experiences

By
Dave Simpson

Last year I hosted the OPGA grafting workshop. Ron Powell, Richard Glaser, and Larry Cook grafted about 13 2yr. old potted plants, 2 wild trees in the woods and one twin-stem established tree in my yard. This was my third try at setting up a small orchard in my yard. The first two attempts failed. The

area in the yard where I planted the trees was mostly hard packed soil with a high clay content. The first planting was with several potted trees that I started. The second planting was with several wild dug bare root seedling 2-3 ft. tall given to me. These plantings received very little preparation or care. They were in full sun without mulch and only watered occasionally [2-5 times] that season. All of these trees died.

Last year, after the potted trees were grafted, I planted them the same day in holes that I prepared the day before. I dug the holes on 10 ft. spacing with 20 ft. between the rows. Around each tree I placed a 3 ft. square piece of landscape cloth, 4" dia by 4" long collar of black plastic field tile, then placed a bottomless 5 gal. plastic bucket over each tree and staked the bucket to prevent it from blowing away. Finally, I placed wood chips for mulch between the plastic collar and the bucket and around the outside of the bucket to cover the landscape cloth. Ron Powell explained this method to me.

I planted 10 new trees and re-grafted one twin-stem established tree that the graft had failed the year before. One potted grafted tree remained in the pot and was placed along the North side of my house in the shade and watered frequently. We had a drought last summer and many of the plants around here suffered. I had 100 blueberries -50 old plants and 50 new plants. These were well mulched and watered every 2-3 weeks when I watered my pawpaws. All of the blueberries died. All of the pawpaw trees have survived but not all of the grafts. The potted graft placed on the North side of my house failed. There were 12 yard grafts. Five survived with one tree being stunted it is very small and showed little growth during the summer. Seven of the grafts failed. One of these I damaged and pulled the graft loose when planting it. On the field trip two wild trees were grafted. Both trees lived with one failed cleft graft and one successful four sided flap graft.

In summary, about half the grafts lived through the first summer. with just average spotty care. I am told that this may be a typical graft survival rate. Planting the just grafted trees did not appear to have much affect on the success of the graft. The established twin stem grafts [2 grafts] failed, one field graft failed, as well as the potted graft kept in the shade and taken care of, failed. All of the extra work putting buckets, mulch, and tile collars around the trees appeared to have helped all the trees survive the severe drought. Even the trees with the failed grafts appear healthy and should be able to be re-grafted this year.

I would like to thank everyone for all the help and advice in getting these trees started.

A description of the yard planting is as follows: 2 rows 20 ft. apart with the trees on 10 ft. centers. First row starting West to East. Healthy trees: PA Golden, NC-1, [Very small and stunted] Shawnee Trail, NC-1; Failed: Green River Bell. Two Sunflowers. North row 2, next to fence starting East to West. Healthy: PA Golden, NC-1, Rebecca's Gold, and Rebecca's Gold; Failed: [Graft pulled loose] Green River Bell, Rappahannock, Shenandoah, and Rebecca's Gold;

**Please check your mailing label
for current membership status.**

**Ohio Pawpaw Growers Association**

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Collecting and Storing Pawpaw Scion Wood

I have been advised and followed the traditional advice of collecting scion wood when the temperature has been above freezing for 24 to 48 hours in late winter or early spring (January to March). Be sure that the vegetative buds are healthy and plump and containing as few flower buds as possible since the flower buds must be removed prior to grafting. You must do advance planning and preparation for successful propagation. Remember that scion wood must be collected and properly stored for later use.

Select straight, smooth, scion wood from 1-year-old wood $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch diameter or larger depending on the type of graft that will be used. Each piece of scion wood (graft stick) should contain at least three buds. Last year's terminal buds are ideal for pawpaws. The terminal buds of some nut trees may not be mature. Mature wood with mature vegetative buds is necessary for budding and grafting.

The scion wood cut 10 to 12 inches long is best. This length fits best in 1 gallon freezer bags. Cutting scion wood into shorter lengths may allow the scion wood to dry out quicker. The cut ends of the scion can be sealed with grafting wax or bees wax.

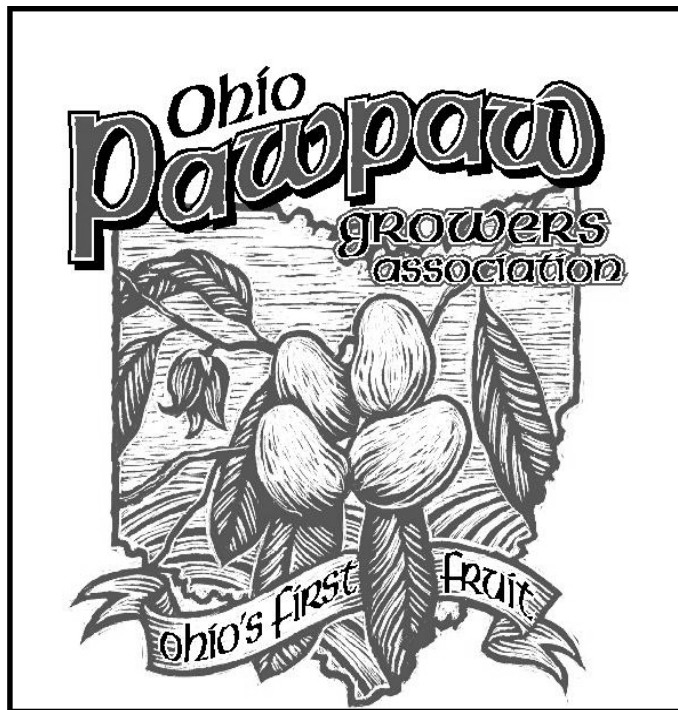
After sealing the cut ends, place in 1 gallon freezer bags. The scion wood may be wrapped with a moist paper towel, sphagnum moss, or wood shavings. This will prevent the scion wood from losing moisture and drying out. Make sure that all excess water has been squeezed out before wrapping the bundle of scion wood. Too much moisture may encourage mold growth. Once cut, the scion wood must be kept cool and moist. Be sure to remove as much of the air from the freezer bags as possible.

The scion wood can be kept throughout the grafting season if cared for properly. The optimum temperatures for the scion wood is between 32° and 36° F. Store the scion wood in bundles of no more than six and label each bundle with variety name or other identification, using permanent ink, in a refrigerator. A "dedicated" refrigerator is best for scion wood to prevent problems with ethylene gas.

Characteristics of good graft sticks:

1. Straight and smooth
2. Healthy and plump vegetative buds
3. Diameter of scion wood between $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch or larger
4. Insect and disease free
5. At least 10 to 12 inches in length

Remember: Do not allow the scion wood to dry out. Scion wood should not be exposed to the environment, especially dry conditions and/or heat and then placed back in the refrigerator during the grafting season. Remove from the refrigerator the number of graft sticks that will be used only during a grafting session.



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visit us at our web site:
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OPGA Dues

We are now able to print mailing labels with each member's anniversary date when dues are due. Dues will now be collected on your anniversary date. We hope that the change will be helpful.

Please renew your membership in OPGA and show your support. Your continued support is needed for educating and promoting the use of pawpaws.

2008 Calendar of Events

Event	Date	Time	Contact	Location
ONGA	April 13	12:00 pm	Ron Powell 513-777-8367	Kingwood Center Mansfield, OH
KNGA	April 19	?	Ron Powell	Elizabethtown, KY
Am. Heritage Days	May 15	9 am – 2 pm	Ron Powell	Camp Dennison, OH
“	May 16	9 am – 2 pm	“	“
“	May 17	10 am – 5 pm	“	“
OPGA Annual mtg	May 24	10 am – 3 pm	Dick Glaser 937-382-5960	Wilmington, OH
Banana Split Festival ?	June ?	?	Dick Glaser	Wilmington, OH
Presentation on pawpaws	July 15	7 pm	Ron Powell	Withrow Nature Preserve, Hamilton Co. Park District
National Pawpaw mtg	Sept. 5	?	Ron Powell	Frankfort, KY
“	Sept 6	?	“	“
Farm Science Review	Sept. 16	10 am – 5 pm	Ron Powell	London, OH
“	Sept 17	“	“	“
“	Sept 18	“	“	“
Great Outdoor Weekend	Sept 27	10 pm – 5 pm	Dick Glaser / Ron Powell	Krohn Conservatory & Cinci Nature Ctr
“	Sept. 28	“	“	“

The calendar will be posted and updated on the OPGA web site: Ohiopawpaw.com