



# WCHS

CONFERENCE & TRADE SHOW

## 2024

**JANUARY 16-18, 2024**

Grand Junction Convention Center • Grand Junction, CO

## THANK YOU

for attending the 80th annual  
Western Colorado Horticultural Society  
Conference and Trade Show!

And thank you to all of our sponsors, vendors,  
and members who make the WCHS  
conference and trade show happen.

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[DETAILS](#)

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**SPECIAL THANKS TO:**

Sharon Clark	John Kroll	Chris Schmalz
Rosa Culbertson	Agustin Pantoja	Melissa Schreiner
Kaleb Easter	Phil Patton	Ashley Shearer
Jack Kissel	Tom Saims	David Sterle
		Harrison Topp

Thank you, board members, for your dedication  
to make this conference a success!



The 2024 Western Colorado Horticultural Society conference is the region's premiere tree fruit conference bringing together top experts in horticulture to Grand Junction each year. WCHS's purpose in hosting the conference is to create a venue to discuss a variety of topics pertinent to Colorado's tree fruit region and industry.

Three days are spent discussing the business behind successfully growing and selling Colorado peaches, apples, grapes, and more. Seminars at the conference cover a range of topics in fruit based agriculture, and the a trade show consists of industry-related vendors exhibiting current and upcoming products, services, and technologies in the industry.

Not only is the annual WCHS conference a great learning opportunity for experienced and new growers alike, it is a fantastic networking opportunity for all who attend!

Learn more about WCHS at  
[www.ColoradoFruits.org](http://www.ColoradoFruits.org)



**Western Colorado  
HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY**

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Welcome from WCHS ..... 5

Conference Speakers..... 6

Seminar Details.....11

Trade Show & Conference Map .....12

Trade Show Exhibitors.....18

Tuesday’s Schedule .....19

Wednesday’s Schedule .....20

Thursday’s Schedule .....21

List of Sponsors .....22



Please reuse this program during the conference and recycle it when you are heading home.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 18, 2024				
	Trade Show	HORTICULTURE Adobe/Escalante/Whitewater	Trade Show	
8:30 am		Scott Harper <b>X disease or Little Cherry Virus in Washington State</b>		8:30 am
:45		8:30-9:15 am		:45
9 am		<b>Grower Discussion Panel</b>		9 am
:15		9:15 -10:00 am		:15
:30		Break		:30
:45		John Cline		:45
10 am		<b>Apple and Pear Thinning Methods</b>		10 am
:15		10:15-11:00 am		:15
:30		Rich Marini		:30
:45		<b>Pruning to manage crop load and enhance cold hardiness of peach flower buds</b>		:45
11 am		11:00 - 12:00 pm		11 am
:15		Lunch 12:00 -1:00 pm		:15
:30		USDA Grants for Growers (Following Lunch In Colorado River Room 1)		:30
:45		1:00-1:15 pm		:45
12 pm		<b>WCHS Membership meeting</b> (Concurrent with USDA) 1-1:15pm		12 pm
:15		David Sterle		:15
:30		<b>Peach fruiting wall and Orchard Mesa field trials</b>		:30
:45		1:15-2:00 pm		:45
1 pm		Break - Passport Drawing		1 pm
:15		Jane Stewart		:15
:30		<b>Cytospora Canker Survey Results</b>		:30
:45		2:15pm -3:00 pm		:45
2 pm		Sal Greenberger		2 pm
:15		<b>Efficacy of Canopy sprays on Cytospora canker</b>		:15
:30		3:00-3:30 pm		:30
:45		Dana Hoag and Brooke Fitzgerald		:45
3 pm		<b>Orchard disease simulation tool</b>		3 pm
:15		3:30-4:00 pm		:15
:30		Brad Tonnessen		:30
:45		<b>Novel Organic Treatments for Cytospora canker</b>		:45
4 pm				4 pm
:15				:15
:30				:30
:45				:45
5 pm				5 pm
6 pm		<b>HAPPY HOUR</b>		6 pm
		Sponsored by <b>Grand Valley Bank</b>		
		6:00 -7:00 pm		
7 pm		<b>WCHS AWARDS BANQUET</b>		7 pm
		7:00 -9:00 pm		
*Schedule is subject to change*				
**VinCO Schedule available at <a href="http://www.winecolorado.org">www.winecolorado.org</a> **				

Please Visit the Trade Show!

Please Visit the Trade Show!

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2024**

Trade Show		<b>HORTICULTURE</b> Adobe/Escalante/Whitewater	Trade Show	
8 am		WCHS Registration 8:00 -8:30 am		8 am
:15				:15
:30		<b>Presidential Introduction 8:30 am</b>		:30
:45		Rich Marini		:45
9 am		<b>Honeycrisp bitterbit</b> 8:30 -9:30 am		9 am
:15				:15
:30		Sarah Musick <b>Food safety CDA</b> 9:30 -10:00 am		:30
:45				:45
10 am		Break		10 am
:15		Ioannis Minas		:15
:30		<b>Advancements in Peach Postharvest Handling and Storage Technologies</b> 10:15 -11:00 am		:30
:45				:45
11 am		Scott Harper <b>Overview of Prunus Viruses</b> 11:00 -12:00 pm		11 am
:15				:15
:30				:30
:45				:45
12 pm		Lunch 12:00 -1:00 pm		12 pm
:15				:15
:30				:30
:45				:45
1 pm		Mel Schreiner <b>Grand Valley Japanese Beetle Update</b> 1:00 -1:30 pm		1 pm
:15				:15
:30		Albert Romero <b>CPW Wildlife Mitigation in Orchards</b> 1:30 -2:00 pm		:30
:45				:45
2 pm		Break		2 pm
:15		Brad Tonnessen <b>Potential organic solutions to apple thinning and apple rootstock trial updates from WCRC-Rogers Mesa</b> 2:15 -2:45pm		:15
:30				:30
:45		Mel Schreiner <b>Overview of Orchard insects</b> 2:45 -3:15 pm		:45
3 pm		Break		3 pm
:15				:15
:30		John Cline <b>ACC thinning and mechanical thinning in peach</b> 3:30 -4:30pm		:30
:45				:45
4 pm				4 pm
:15				:15
:30				:30
:45				:45
5 pm		<b>Meet the Vendors Happy Hour</b> With Appetizers sponsored by <b>American Ag Credit</b> <b>4:30 -6:00 pm</b>		5 pm
:15				:15
:30				:30
:45				:45
6:00 PM		<b>Wine Industry Awards Banquet 6:00 -8:00 pm</b>		6:00 PM

Please Visit the Trade Show!

Please Visit the Trade Show!

*\*Schedule is subject to change\**  
*\*\*VinCO Schedule available at [www.winecolorado.org](http://www.winecolorado.org)\*\**



# Western Colorado HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Welcome to the 80th annual Western Colorado Horticultural Society Conference and Trade Show.

I'm very excited to welcome you to this year's conference. Our mission is to bring members together for their mutual education; and advance the science of pomology and the arts of horticulture in Western Colorado. Once again we return to our home at the Grand Junction Convention Center, along with our friends and colleagues at VinCO. This conference is all about collaboration. We value this incredible opportunity to gather as an industry and family of growers. This is the time of year when we can lean into collaboration, knowledge sharing, and learning.

Make sure to take advantage of the speakers and panels we have on offer. We are very lucky to have such exceptional national and international experts attend our conference as presenters. Equally important, pay a visit to our vendors and community partners who have set up booths in the tradeshow. Don't forget to fill out your passport card for a chance to win our grand prize drawing on Thursday. Wednesday evening we will host a Tradeshow Happy Hour to network with other members, trade show vendors, and speakers. Thursday evening we will once again host our annual Awards Banquet Celebration. Please make sure you are registered for all the great events throughout the week. If you have any questions, visit the registration booth.

Our WCHS Board, in conjunction with VinCO has worked incredibly hard to bring you this year's conference. Without you, our members and attendees, we would not exist, and without our Boards, this event would not happen.

I want to personally thank the Grand Junction Convention Center, VinCO, all of our vendors, sponsors, speakers, and donors, and our board members for all of your hard work. I am honored to serve as the President of the Western Colorado Horticulture Society and preside over this year's conference.

kindest Regards,  
Harrison Topp  
President  
Western Colorado Horticultural Society



# SPEAKERS

## Albert Romero

~ *Mitigation of Wildlife and the CPW Game Damage Program*

Albert is a CPW District Wildlife Manager (DWM)/ Wildlife Officer. He has been with the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Division for 23 years, starting his career in Colorado Springs in 2000 and moving to Grand Junction in 2008. In addition to enforcement of Wildlife laws and Regulations, Wildlife Officers such as Albert are responsible for managing the state's Wildlife Resources through information, education and biology.

## David Sterle

~ *Peach Fruiting wall and Orchard Mesa Field Trials*

David is a research scientist in pomology at CSU's Western Colorado Research Station- Orchard Mesa, with over 9 years of experience with tree fruit production in Western Colorado. His PhD dissertation focused on multiple aspects of peach floral bud cold hardiness including the development of cold hardiness predictive models, improvement of cold hardiness measurement technologies, and analyzing metabolites and proteins that are associated with increased cold hardiness in peach. Currently, he is researching many practical aspects of peach and cherry orchard management as well as fertilizer and hormone applications to aid in stone fruit frost protection.

## Melissa Schreiner

~ *Grand Valley Fruit Insect Pests and Japanese Beetle Discussion*

Melissa Schreiner works as a state entomologist for Colorado State University Extension, focusing in the Tri-River Area of Colorado. She obtains advanced skills in vegetable production, horticultural entomology, insect and spider identification, and scientific illustration. Her extension and research program helps to solve agricultural, urban, public health, and natural resource issues relating to pest management and entomology in western Colorado.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2024				
Trade Show		HORTICULTURE Adobe/Escalante/Whitewater		Trade Show
8 am	Please Visit the Trade Show!	<p><b>WCHS Bus Tour</b> A bus tour through farms in the Grand Valley which will showcase high density cherry plantings, sulfur burner, a laser system for bird control and more. *Separate registration required*</p>	Please Visit the Trade Show!	8 am
:15				:15
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10 am				10 am
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4 pm	4 pm			
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:45	:45			
5:00 PM	5:00 PM			
5 pm	5 pm			
:15	:15			
:30	:30			
		Welcome Wine Reception 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm		
*Schedule is subject to change*				
**VinCO Schedule available at <a href="http://www.winecolorado.org">www.winecolorado.org</a> **				

## TRADE SHOW EXHIBITORS

- Van Well Nursery • Bolinger and Queen
- Sierra Gold Nursery • RCIS
- GJ Pipe • US Tractor • Clark Family Orchards
- Rogers Mesa Fruit Co. • Tropic Breeze
- Summit Tree Sales • Wilbur Ellis • Gowan
- Rocky Mountain Farmers Union
- CSU Western Colorado Research Center
- CSU Extension-Entomology
- Diamond K Gypsum • All Terrain Motorsports
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- USDA Colorado Department of Ag Food Safety
- USDA Grants
- USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT-COLORADO
- USDA NASS • Bobcat of The Rockies
- Fruita/Palisade COOP Country
- Farm Credit MidAmerica Rural 1st
- Debbie Lang Crop Insurance • Western Implement
- US Tractor & Harvest • Inman Interwest Inc
- Bolinger and Queen • All Terrain Motorsports

## PASSPORT DRAWING

**WIN** great prizes by visiting the Trade Show during the VinCO & WCHS Conference! Prizes include gift baskets, services and other items donated by the trade show exhibitors!

**TO ENTER:**

Visit the WCHS Registration desk to pick up your Passport Drawing information. The Passport Drawing will take place at 2:00pm on Thursday, January 19th inside of the Trade Show.

**YOU MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN**

Her entomology team conducts several annual surveys which monitor for exotic insects and diseases in stone fruit, grapes, and sweet corn.

Mel's extension entomology program manages several diverse programs that support community members, master gardeners, producers, extension agents, pest management professionals, with the provision of insect/plant damage diagnostics and insect education. Mel is very active in the field, holding many consultations and site visits providing insect identification/management assistance.

**Ioannis S. Minas**

*~ Advancements in Peach Postharvest Handling and Storage Technologies*

Dr. Minas is a Professor of Pomology with the Dept. of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture at Colorado State University. Dr. Minas received his PhD in Pomology and Postharvest Physiology from Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece. During his PhD studies was appointed as a Junior Specialist for 2 years at the Dept. Plant Sciences at University of California Davis, CA. His research program at CSU is emphasized on orchard and environmental factors affecting productivity, developmental physiology, harvest quality and postharvest technology of tree Continued 13SPEAKERS fruits. Dr. Minas is senior or co-author in more than 30 peer reviewed publications in the field of pomology and postharvest physiology and serves as coordinator of peach rootstock trials within the framework of the multi-state project NC-140.

**Jane Stewart**

*~ Cytospora talks for the WCHC*

Dr. Stewart is a Professor at Colorado State University in the Dept. of Agricultural Biology. Her research interests include: understanding the biology, ecology and genetics of emerging tree/ plant pathogenic fungi using population genetics and genomic methods, studying the interactions of plant and fungi that govern variation in host specialization, pathogenicity, and virulence, and understanding genomic drivers of fungal species delimitation and divergence with a focus on pathogens

*Continued*

important to Colorado's forests, shade and fruit trees, and forests worldwide. Recently, research conducted by her team has led to improvements in the treatment and detection of cytospora canker in western Colorado peaches.

### **Scott Harper**

*~ X-Disease in the Pacific Northwest - what have we learned?*

*~ The "other" pathogens: viruses and viroids in stone fruits*

Scott is an Associate Professor in Plant Pathology at Washington State University, and has been with WSU for seven years. Prior to that, he got his PhD at the University of Auckland in 2009. After spending some time at the New Zealand Ministry of Agriculture's Biosecurity agency, he moved to the University of Florida for a Postdoctoral position. Throughout his career, he has focused on viruses and systemic pathogens of perennial crops. His current research is focused on X-disease and other viruses in cherry, as well as viruses and viroids in hops.

### **Richard Marini**

*~ Pruning to manage crop load and enhance cold hardiness of peach flower buds*

*~ Methods and Factors to predict bitter pit in Honeycrisp*

Dr. Marini is a Professor of Horticulture, Emeritus in the Department of Plant Science at Penn State University. During the past 20 years he served as department head, and throughout his career he has taught or cotaught courses in Tree and Small Fruit Sciences, Plant Physiology, Wine Science, and Statistics. His research has included whole-plant physiology of tree fruit and berry crops, including rootstock evaluations, pruning, crop load management, bitter pit in apples, early-season estimates of crop load and fruit size at harvest, soil amendments for blueberries, blueberry cultivar evaluation, and high tunnel production of raspberries and strawberries. In the past 10 years, Dr. Marini developed models to predict apple fruit size at harvest from early-season measurements.

of experience, producers do not yet have effective predictors of how many fruit will be removed when special blossom and fruitlet chemical thinners are used. Over- or under-thinning can cause considerable economic loss to growers, making it crucial to be successful in early thinning. This presentation will focus on the timing and concentration of chemical thinners to enhance the natural drop of fruits in June and methods to aid in precision crop load management of apples.

**Speaker: John Cline MSc, PhD**

**Thursday, January 18 - 10:15-11:00 am**

### **• Thinning Peaches with 1-ACC and other Chemicals and Mechanical Approaches**

Peach and nectarine trees usually bear an excessive number of fruit on the tree, resulting in too many small fruits that makes them unmarketable. Removal of fruit by hand in July each year is necessary to ensure the peaches/nectarines fruit are of sufficient size and quality at harvest time. Hand thinning is time consuming, requires a significant amount of labour over a short period, and is therefore expensive. This presentation will investigate a novel compound called 1-ACC (Accede™) that is applied to stone fruit trees, at and shortly following bloom, to selectively remove fruit. Also, I will discuss other chemical and mechanical thinning approaches used in the past. The aim of thinning is four-fold: i) reduced need for hand thinning; ii) reduced need and reliance on manual labour; iii) improved fruit quality; iv) overall improved orchard efficiency and economic sustainability.

**Speaker: John Cline MSc, PhD**

**Wednesday, Jan. 17 - 3:30 - 4:30 pm**

### **• Advancements in Peach Postharvest Handling and Storage Technologies**

Maintaining high fruit quality throughout the storage life of a peach involves managing several physiological factors, and high fruit quality is critical for Colorado's peach industry. Recent technological advancements and techniques may significantly enhance our ability to maintain peach quality for longer while in cold storage, helping to ensure consumer satisfaction. .

**Speaker: Ioannis Minas, PhD**

**Wednesday, Jan. 17 -10:15-11:00 am**



from genetics to disease, transmission and epidemiology, and what management options have worked, and what hasn't.

**Speaker: Scott Harper**

**Thursday, January 18 - 8:30-9:15 am**

• **The "other" pathogens: viruses and viroids in stone fruits**

Viruses and viroids are a perennial and recurring problem in stone fruit production, reducing tree growth and vigor, as well as reducing fruit quality and yield. In this talk we'll review the effects, spread, and management of common stone fruit viruses as well as a few re-emerging pathogens to be aware of.

**Speaker: Scott Harper**

**Wednesday, Jan. 17 - 11:00-12:00 pm**

• **Cytospora Talks**

The long-term goal of this research is to develop management strategies for canker pathogens based on sound understandings of pathogen epidemiology across stone fruit orchards. Several *Cytospora* spp. are documented to cause disease on peach, apple and cherry, yet management for *Cytospora* canker occurs mainly in peach. The importance of host specificity and the role apple and cherry orchards play in the epidemiological cycle has not been demonstrated. This presentation will discuss results of surveys conducted in peach, cherry, and apple orchards examining incidence and severity of *Cytospora* canker and results from pathogenicity assays to determine fruit crop host range of each *Cytospora* species collected from the surveys.

**Speaker: Jane Stewart / Sal Greenberger / Dr. Dana**

**Hoag / Brooke Fitzgerald / Dr. Brad Tonnessen**

**Thursday, January 18 - 2:15-4:30 pm**

• **Apple Crop Load Management**

Chemical and hand thinning is one of the most important practices that determines profitability and influences fruit quality. The thinning process is currently a very inexact science and highly labour-intensive accounting for up to 50 hrs/acre (110 hrs/ha) (35% of total labour costs in Ontario, Canada). Many factors influence the thinning outcome, including cultivar, tree age and health, the amount of bloom on the tree, and despite decades

**John Cline MSc, PhD**

~ *Apple Crop Load Management*

~ *Thinning Peaches with 1-ACC and other Chemicals and Mechanical Approaches*

John Cline is a professor in the Department of Plant Agriculture, University of Guelph where he teaches undergraduate and graduate students and conducts research in tree fruit pomology. He also provides outreach in various capacities to the tree fruit industry.

The primary objective of Prof. Cline's research is to investigate factors that determine yield and fruit quality of tree fruit crops. Current projects include investigating the use of new, size-controlling apple and peach rootstocks, research on European apple cultivars and red-fleshed crab apples for hard cider, studying horticultural technologies to reduce labour inputs in a movement toward greater orchard automation, and investigation of plant bioregulators to regulate flowering, plant growth, improve fruit quality and reduce pre-harvest fruit drop. His orchard and lab research is carried out at the University of Guelph, Simcoe Research Station and on commercial orchards across Ontario.

John holds a B.Sc. in soil science (Univ. of Guelph), M.Sc. in horticulture (Michigan State University), and a Ph.D. in Horticulture (University of London, UK).

**Sarah Musick**

~ *Produce Safety Rules*

Sarah Musick is a Colorado native and has been with the Colorado Department of Agriculture for 4.5 years. She currently holds the position of Produce Safety Rule Coordinator, with her main responsibilities being: education and outreach, PSA Grower Trainings, webinars, and On-Farm Readiness Reviews. The Produce Safety Rule pertains to any produce typically consumed raw that is grown, harvested, packed or held in the state of CO. Sarah's presentation will detail what the program is, to include the defining of farm size and any exemptions to the rule. She will also cover Enforcement Discretion on wine grapes and what parts of the rule apply to growers, including Colorado registration requirements. For those that fall under the rule, there is an inspection portion of this talk where attendees will

*Continued*

learn what an initial inspection would look like versus a routine inspection (to include documentation). Sarah is currently conducting some outreach to farms that are under the rule, so if you have been contacted by her, that is why! She enjoys working with growers in regards to Produce Safety, so if you would like some technical assistance or would like to schedule an On-Farm Readiness Review, feel free to contact her.

### **Bradley Tonnessen, PhD**

*~ Potential Organic Solutions to Apple Thinning and Apple Rootstock Trial Updates from WCRC Rogers Mesa*

Brad is from Paonia, CO, and serves as the Research Scientist at the CSU Organic Agriculture Research Station at Rogers Mesa. He is working to sustain and build the community presence of this research station and produce ground-breaking research to benefit farmers. Brad focuses on bridging the communication gap between the public and the university, emphasizing applied research to solve immediate issues, especially drought. He grew up in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and earned his PhD in plant pathology with CSU. Before ending up in western CO, he was an organic farming teacher for a non-profit in Sacramento, CA, and a chile pepper breeder in southern NM. Outside the research station, you'll find Brad either biking, fishing, dancing, or starting new projects like brewing hard cider from his surplus apples.

### **Dana Hoag, PhD**

*~ Disease Decision Tool: Cytospora - orcharddiseasetool.net*

Dr. Dana Hoag has been a Professor in Agricultural and Resource Economics at Colorado State University since 1993. He specializes on economic solutions to production issues, especially where there are conflicts off the farm (water, wildlife, disease, soils). He is very active in research and education, and has engaged with a wide variety of producer audiences throughout his career. He has been working with a team of experts from CSU and in the Peach growing region in Colorado to develop a tool that could help producers make decisions about how to manage Cytospora in peach orchards. He is also working with Rogers Mesa on a project to evaluate solar energy, often called agrivoltaics.

### • **Methods and Factors to predict bitter pit in Honeycrisp**

Elemental analysis of 'Honeycrisp' apple peels over three seasons were used to develop a predictive model for bitter pit. A simple model using just two variables (peel N/Ca ratio and average shoot length) explained 68% of the variation in bitter pit. The model was tested with two additional years of data. Although the model tended to underpredict bitter pit when bitter pit was severe (over 25%), it could accurately identify orchards with less than 10% bitter pit where fruit could be stored. In another set of experiments, fruits that are most likely to develop bitter pit were identified. Fruits with a high probability of developing bitter pit included large fruit, fruit on spurs with only one fruit, fruits from low shaded regions of the canopy, and fruit on spurs with short bourse shoots.

**Speaker: Rich Marini**

**Wednesday, Jan. 17 - 8:30-9:30 am**

### • **Potential Organic Solutions to Apple Thinning and Apple Rootstock Trial Updates from WCRC Rogers Mesa**

Thinning of apples is critical to produce large and marketable fruit and is an arduous task for growers. It is especially difficult for organic orchardists with little or no chemical options. At the Western Colorado Research Center - Rogers Mesa, we are a 100% certified organic research station searching for solutions to apple thinning in this context. In this talk, results from 2023 experiments will be presented on two thinning methods: Proper timing of pest exclusion netting during bloom, and application of the plant hormone, abscisic acid. Additionally, updates will be provided from apple rootstock trials ongoing at WCRC-RM with the scions Buckeye Gala (2019) and the cider variety Porter's Perfection (2023).

**Speaker: Brad Tonnessen**

**Wednesday, Jan. 17 -2:15-2:45 pm**

### • **X-Disease in the Pacific Northwest - what have we learned?**

The X-disease epidemic has been damaging cherry and stone fruit production in the Pacific Northwest for nearly a decade, with disease getting worse every year. But the last outbreak as over 50 years ago, so what happened? Why did it come back? In this talk we'll review what we've learned in the last five years of research,

*Continued*

role that pest management plays in ensuring successful and healthy tree fruit crops while also providing an update on a local and threatening invasive insect, the Japanese beetle. A representative from Mesa County will be invited to present an update during the discussion section of this presentation.

**Speaker: Melissa (Mel) Schreiner**

**Wednesday, Jan. 17 - 1-1:30 pm (Japanese Beetle)**

**Wednesday, Jan. 17 - 2:45-3:15 pm (Overview of Orchard Insects)**

• **Produce Safety Rules**

The Produce Safety Rule is any produce typically consumed raw that is grown, harvested, packed or held in the state of CO. This presentation will go over at the high level what the program is, including defining farm size and exemptions of the rule (including Qualified Exempt). There will also be a portion of the talk that will go over the Enforcement Discretion on wine grapes and what parts of the rule apply to growers, including the registration requirement that Colorado has. For those that fall under the rule, there is an inspection portion where attendees can learn how an initial inspection compares to a routine inspection, and how documentation looks for both.

**Speaker: Sarah Music**

**Wednesday, Jan. 17 - 9:30-10:00 am**

• **Pruning to manage crop load and enhance cold hardiness of peach flower buds**

Dormant pruning to retain a certain number of fruiting shoots per acre can be used to reduce fruit set and thinning cost, while improving fruit size and net profits. Pruning or hedging in August can delay acclimation and reduce early-season flower bud cold hardiness. Early fruit thinning enhances winter flower bud cold hardiness as well as resistance to spring frosts. Pruning before a cold event can reduce tolerance to cold temperatures, even at bloom time. Provisional recommendations for numbers of fruiting shoots per acre will be provided for cultivars with small, medium, and large fruit.

**Speaker: Rich Marini**

**Thursday, January 18 - 1:15-2:00 pm**



## SEMINAR DETAILS

• **Mitigation of Wildlife and the CPW Game Damage Program**

This presentation will be cover the minimization and mitigation of Wildlife - specifically Orchard conflicts - and the CPW game damage program.

**Speaker: Albert Romero**

**Wednesday, Jan. 17 - 1:30-2:00 pm**

• **Peach Fruiting wall and Orchard Mesa Field Trials**

Two-dimensional fruiting wall systems have the potential to use light more efficiently within a tree's canopy, while increasing fruit quality and decreasing labor expenses. However, to optimize the yield and quality potential, trees using varying rootstocks should be trained differently to diffuse the vigor the rootstock imparts to the tree to the proper extent. Additionally, other field trials taking place at Colorado State University WCRC-OM will be discussed.

**Speaker: David Sterle**

**Thursday, Jan. 18 - 1:15-2:00 pm**

• **Grand Valley Fruit Insect Pests and Japanese Beetle Discussion**

Learning insights into managing common insect pests in the region's orchards greatly benefits many facets of our western Colorado horticultural industry. Melissa (Mel), CSU Tri-River Area Extension Entomologist, will cover the significant impact of various common insect pest species on fruit production in the Grand Valley, emphasizing the importance of integrated pest management strategies. The Japanese beetle, an invasive insect wreaking havoc across the urban area of Grand Junction will also be discussed, where Mel will present on their biology, lifecycle, local distribution, and the CSU 2024 citizen science trapping program. The presentation will underscore the critical



# Western Colorado HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

