



BYFG Spring News

Welcome New Subscribers!

"Springtime is a great time to get out in the landscape and look at what was created for us."

March 2026

35th Annual BYFG Grafting Workshop Sat. March 21, 2026

Letter from BYFG President:

Learning to bud graft

We've been bench grafting all these years. I was wondering if there would be anyone interested in learning to bud graft. That is what most of the industry does since you can get more grafts out of a single piece of scion.

If so, maybe BYFG could have a summer workshop



on bud grafting. I have tried it, but I'm no expert. I was thinking about asking a professional to show me

the best time to do this, along with the best kind of graft and the reason to bud graft certain fruit tree at any given time. If this is something that you would enjoy doing this summer, I would love to put a program together for this kind of event. Send me a text, email, or call and if there's big interest in doing so, we can make it happen.

From Chris Buck



Don't forget the Apple Grafting Workshop for BYFG Friends and gardeners wanting to learn to graft. It will be Saturday, March 21, 2026.

It is at the Mount Wilson Church of The Brethren.

1261 Mt Wilson Road, Lebanon PA **RED DOT ON MAP**



Help's Needed

Contact

Steve

Shambeda promptly

SEE page 3 ↗

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How to Collect & Store Useable

Apple & Pear Scion:

Step 1: REALLY IMPORTANT: Select straight, dormant (cut in Feb.-Mar.) **PENCIL-THICK 1/4 INCH DIAMETER FIRST-YEAR GROWTH FROM VARIETIES THAT HAVE BORNE FRUIT TRUE TO VARIETY**

Save Center Section

Step 2: Cut your scion when the temperature is above freezing.



Step 3: Cut sticks to lengths of about 12 inches. The **pencil thick middle section** has the buds most likely to grow.

Step 4: Label each stick or bundle!!! Wrap in a damp paper towel. Store in a double plastic bag in a fridge or other cool place, where they won't freeze, and keep away from ripening fruit.

Step 5: On or before Wednesday, March 18, please contact Steve Shambeda with your list, so he has a general idea of varieties. (717-603-2458) e-* smsambeda@gmail.com **Drop off labeled scion at the church on Saturday, March 21, at 7:00 am.** It is important to label at least 1 piece of wood INSIDE the bag, and please have your name and variety on the outside of the bag. **Also there are 2 drop off scion locations:**

Steve S. house & Chris B. house

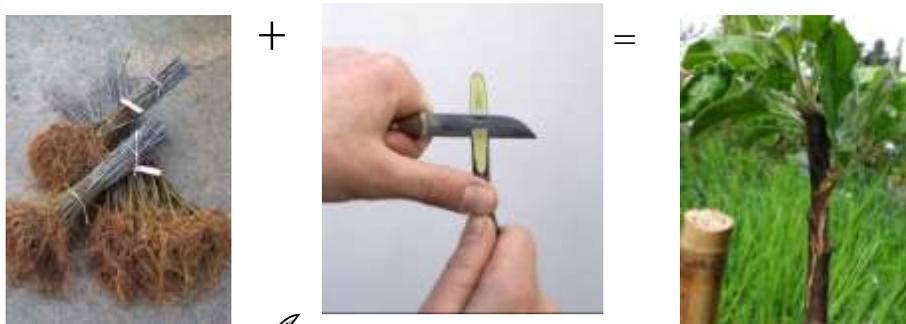
No Scion wood = No New Trees. If you can—**PLEASE** bring at least one or two varieties of scion wood.

Easy Directions Here 😊

What to Bring:

- ❑ A *grafting knife* or your *sharp pocket knife*. We will have *grafting knives for sale @ \$20 ea.*
- ❑ A roll of *parafilm grafting tape* or wide rubber bands and/or heavy twine. 
- ❑ *Masking tape & a Sharpie marker*, to tag your varieties.
- ❑ *Plastic bread bags & newspaper* to protect your new tree's roots.
- ❑ A brown bag lunch!

*Rootstocks Available @ \$3 ea.
mix & match before Noon
EMLA 27 rootstock total
in mix & match*



Please bring your newspaper and bread bags for grafting workshop

Apple	Size *	Spacing (ft.)
EMLA 111 ♠	75%	16 - 20
G-890 ♠ &	65%	12 - 14
Bud 10 ⌘	35%	7 - 9
EMLA 27 ⌘	20%	3 - 6
Pear	Size *	Spacing (ft.)
OHxF 87 ♠ &	75%	10 ft
Plum	Size *	Spacing (ft.)
Myrobalan *	100%	15 ft

* Compared to a Standard Tree
 ♠ Free-standing once established
 ⌘ Requires permanent support system & Support when 1st planting

Can I bring a guest?

The AM Workshop is only for BYFG and their immediate families with subscriptions up-to-date before Workshop day



Can I bring children?

Yes, if they are over 12. We love children, but don't want any injured while we are learning new skills with very sharp knives.

Drop off scion locations
check page 4



Grafting Workshop 2026

At the January Winter Meeting we had a wonderful response from volunteers for the Grafting Workshop assignments. At this time we still need a few more people. To volunteer contact Grafting Workshop Manager Steve Shambeda: 📞 717-603-2783. e-✉ smsambeda@gmail.com (Email preferred)

The grafting workshop starts @ 10 AM. Doors open for grafting workshop participants at 8:30 am. If you are bringing scion in at 7:00 am, you can sign in then go to the waiting area in the adjacent room to the right after entering the main entrance to the workshop & enjoy coffee & donuts
Those not signed up for Early Morning Set-up, please go to the waiting area in the adjacent room to the right after coming into the main entrance to the workshop & enjoy coffee & donuts

Who's Signed up for What?

Friday @ 9 AM Early set up this year at the church: Chris Buck, Chris Hondru, Jim Davis, Steve Shambeda, Bev Shambeda, Andy Weidman, Tom Maurer

Saturday 7:00 AM - Early Morning Set-up at the church. Sort rootstocks, label scion, put scion in designated containers on tables, etc.

Chris Buck, Bill Daily, Chris Manning, Simon Mast, Frank Haas, Chris Hondru, David McClimon, Dan & Cheryl Matesich, William Heistand, Chris Patterson, Brian Weir, John Koethe, Jim Davis, Allan & Carolyn Brown, Michelle Fletcher, Gerald Ebersole, Dave Charles, Dan Mazur, Brenda Littig, Julia Matesich, Kevin Rothenberger, Andy Weidman, Ted Weeden, Kim Weeden, Brad Turner, Dan Turner, Tom Maurer, Pete Fisher.

7 AM Rootstock Labeling
Brenda Littig, Ted Weeden, Kim Weeden

10 AM - 12:00 PM Rootstock order forms and information table. (MANAGER) Chris Manning

10 AM - 12:00 PM Friends Grafting Teachers Help BYFG friends learn the basics.
Gary Shelly, Simon Mast, Ken Kuzdro, Chris Mauchline, Jim Davis, Chris Buck

10 AM - 12:00 PM Selling Rootstocks
Bill Dailey (MANAGER), Ted and Kim Weeden

12:00 PM - 1:00 Lunch
Talk to old friends that we haven't seen for a while. Share a treat. Have a great time. Just a start of what is ahead in the coming year.

1:30 PM - 3:30 PM Public Workshop Grafting Teachers

Gary Shelly, Simon Mast, Ken Kuzdro, Jim Davis, Chris Buck, Steve Shambeda

1:00 PM - 3:00 Selling Rootstocks
Bill Dailey (MANAGER), Ted and Kim Weeden

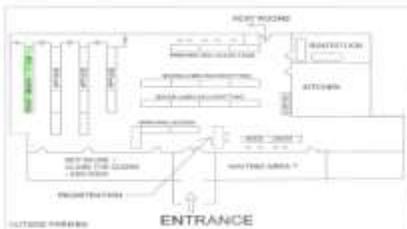
3:30 PM - 4:30 PM Cleanup

All are welcome to help



Thank You Chris Buck for the opportunity to access this facility

What goes into planning a event like this? For a behind the scenes look, join the planning committee. A special call out to Steve Shambeda for all the planning and work he does to make this event so special.



Grafting Workshop Schedule

Friday 9 am setup Volunteers
Chris Buck, Chris Hondru, Jim Davis, Steve Shambeda, Bev Shambeda, Andy Weidman, Tom Maurer

Saturday 7 AM - Setup Volunteers:
Mt Wilson Church The Brethren
Lebanon, PA 17042

Volunteers who have signed up in advance to help with setup please see Steve Shambeda or Andy Weidman upon arrival. If you are not signed up, please go to the side hall to register. The main hall is closed until 10 AM to anyone not signed up for set-up.

8:30 - 10 AM - Register @ the church hall (Non Volunteers)

For those not helping with set-up, please go to the church hall to register and get your admission tag. Pick up Workshop instructions, sign waiver. Coffee & Donuts provided. Please do not congregate near sign up desk and coffee areas.

10 AM - Noon - BYFG Workshop - Free!

When volunteers have finished labeling scion, at about 10 AM, registered BYFGs can go into the main hall to choose scion & rootstock & to begin grafting!

Noon - 1 PM - Lunch
Time to sit back and talk to friends.

1:00 to 3:30 PM Public Workshop

The Class will start with Steve Shambeda' illustrated talk on grafting and apple varieties, public participants will choose two rootstocks, have free roam of the scion wood, and receive hands-on grafting instruction. Public fee: \$30.00

**BYFG Fruit Tree Sale
May 8 & 9 at the
Landis Valley Museum
Herb Faire:
Please Help**

Sign up: Two- and four-hour
AM & PM shifts for
Friday or Saturday.

Chris Buck is the BYFG Coordi-
nator for the Herb Faire sale.

If you can help contact
Chris at ☎ 717-821-0740 . Texts
are preferred e-✉ Chris Buck
cj buck plus 6@gmail.com

**Drop off scion
Locations**

Chris Buck and Steve Shambeda
will have a drop off points for scion
wood from any of the BYFG's in the
Lancaster area who may not be at-
tending the workshop.

Starting on Wednesday thru Fri-
day, 3/18-20/2026, They will have a
cooler with freezer blocks inside posi-
tioned on their porch. The max length
of the scion wood will need to be 16"
long/tagged/and bundled. Please put
your name and address on the bundle
too. Please email list to or call Steve
Shambeda.

Drop off scion location:

Chris Buck
275 Syner Road, Annville Pa 17003
cj buck plus 6@gmail.com
717-821-0740 . Please text that
you dropped off scion

Steve Shambeda
300 Station Road, Grantville Pa
717-603-2458 email
smsambeda@gmail.com
Email preferred

BYFG Officers:

President : Chris Buck
V-President / Secretary
Steve Shambeda
Treasurer : Bill Dailey

**2026 Pollinator Bees and
Tubes**

We will have plenty of empty
solitary pollinating bee card-
board nest tubes for sale at the
Grafting Workshop.

We will also have plenty of
empty solitary pollinating bee
cardboard nest tubes for sale at
the Jan, Feb, & March 2026
Meetings.

Learn how to become a
BYFG Bee Supporter. .

Workshop. We'll sell a filled bundle
for \$10. Empty tubes, poly-coated for
durability, are \$13 per
hundred, instructions
included. Folks who do-
nate receive a new
empty tube for each
filled one donated.



Contact Peter Fisher for infor-
mation, or to help with the bee
sales at the March BYFG Event.

☎ 717.545.9848



Two nest block
types,
Cardboard &
Bamboo Tubes in
shelters.

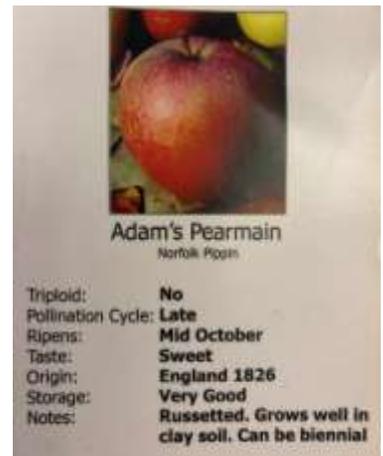
To Contact BYFG

- **Subscription Renewals.**
Howard Frysinger; e-✉
hfrysinger@gmail.com
- **Newsletter Editor – Articles & Ideas:**
Dano Matesic ;
✉ keystonepawpaw@gmail.com
- **Subscriber List Questions:**
Howard Frysinger; e-✉
hfrysinger@gmail.com
- **Secretary: Woodbank caretaker**
Steve Shambeda; e-✉
smsambeda@gmail.com
- **BYFG Website –** 🌐 <http://www.byfg.org>
Voluntarily designed and maintained by Bill
Dailey - ✉ dailey@sas.upenn.edu
- **BYFG is Active on Facebook.** Friend
BYFG. Post photos and discuss fruit growing.
Thanks Chris Buck and Andy Weidman

**IMPROVE OUR GRAFTING
WORKSHOP POT TAGS!**

Everyone who has attended the
BYFG Grafting Workshop would agree
the large apple photos with detailed
descriptions are better than the plain
tags that only show the variety name.
Steve Shambeda is looking for five vol-
unteers to do advance prep work for
the March Grafting Workshop. We
need help gathering information so
more of these colorful and useful pot
tags can be made. The goal is to make
20 new pot tags every year.

**NO GRAPHIC EXPERIENCE
NEEDED!**



Your time commitment is only 4 hours
over a 4 month period (April, May
June, July). This could be 1 hour per
month or you could do all 4 hours at
one time - your choice. **NO GRAPHIC
EXPERIENCE NEEDED.** The
help that is needed is internet or book
research. Jim Davis has volunteered
to handle all the graphics. Steve will
have an informational package for all
helpers with detailed instructions in-
cluding links to helpful websites for
the collection of the information. He
has offered to help you do the first one!

Let's face it, most of us like to
spend time on the internet - please put
that internet time to good use to help
the BYFG Grafting Workshop improve
by having better pot tags for the work-
shop.

Contact Steve Shambeda at
717-603-2458 or
smsambeda@gmail.com

OPEN OFFICER POSITION

The BYFG community has learned of the passing of a great friend of ours. We are saddened to announce the passing of Nils Peterson, 78, the treasurer of the BYFG. Nils is survived by his wife Donna. Nils was instrumental in handling the finances of the BYFG, taking care of the friends list, and passing it to the appropriate individuals at workshops

Bill Dailey has agreed to take over the position of treasurer. Steve Shambeda will handle secretary and Vice President until another officer can be found.

The secretary position requires 16 to 20 hours of work in a calendar year. The VP position requires about 12 hours. If you are interested and want to know more about these open officer positions, please contact Chris Buck, Bill Dailey or Steve Shambeda by phone or email.

Woodbank lists hundreds of cultivars of fruit scionwood and budwood, cuttings, etc. to be swapped between BYFG Subscribers.

Printed Copy \$7

Available at BYFG Meetings: See Steve Shambeda 'Subscribers' who list varieties in Woodbank, receive a free printed copy.

Updated 2026 printed copies will be available at the Winter Meeting, Winter Workshops, and Grafting Workshop. See Steve Shambeda.

This as always :

Square processing. Pay for rootstock and some purchases through Square.



2026 Calendar

March 21	Grafting Workshop	Mount Wilson Church of the Brethren
April TBA	Planning Group Mtg.	TBA
May 8-9	BYFG Tree Sale	Landis V. Museum - Lanc. PA
Aug Mid	Summer Picnic/Tour	Contact Chris Buck. about hosting
Sept. TBA	Planning Group Barbecue	@ TBA
Sept. 26	Ted's BYFG Pawpaw Tours	@ Ted's / Harleysville PA
Oct. TBA	BYFG / LVM Tasting	Landis V. Museum - Lanc. PA
Oct TBA	BYFG / Trailside Harvest Fall Fest	Cornwall Manor Cornwall, PA *We will know later this summer if this event will happen*
Oct. TBA	BYFG Private Tasting	TBA
Nov. TBA	Planning Group. Mtg.	TBA

Subscribe and Participate

If you live within driving distance of our meetings and wish to participate in BYFG events, use this form to subscribe or renew. The BYFG seasonal newsletter is published in January, March, August and October. Current subscribers and their families gain free admission to most BYFG events and may access the BYFG Woodbank.

Send a \$15 check for a 2 year subscription; payable to:

BYFG c/o Howard Frysinger 31 Seminary Road Glenmoore, PA 19343

Renewal New Subscription newsletter will be e-mailed only

(We'll send email-only subscribers a notice when your subscription is expiring)

Name _____

E-mail _____ @ _____

Street _____

When it comes to fruit growing I am most interested in:

Town _____

State _____ Zip _____ - _____

Check your e-mail for subscription expiration

Phone () _____ - _____

Fax () _____ - _____

Privacy Policy:

BYFG does not sell subscriber contact information.

Backyard Fruit Growers
% Howard Frysinger
31 Seminary Road
Glenmoore, PA 19343

-Return Service Requested-

FREE LITERATURE SWAP: Bring your fruit and agriculture related magazines, etc. LOOK FOR THE SWAP TABLE

“Like” BYFG on Facebook Our Facebook site is now very active, thanks to Andy Weidman and Chris Buck. Post fruit photos, growing tips, stories, etc.

For Online Access: BYFG Newsletter for current subscribers can read the Newsletter and access Woodbank on our website:
www.byfg.org

Classified Advertisements

Subscribers are welcome to submit *wanted, for sale, free, swap*, and other ads that are of interest to BYFG folks. Your ad will appear in at least two issues of the newsletter. Contact the editors.

The editors of the BYFG Newsletter welcome articles & news of interest to small scale fruit growers. Contact info on page 4. *Thanks!*

• Grafting Parafilm[®] - 1" wide-\$10 a roll. Grafting rubber bands and sealer. Steve Shambeda. (717-603-2458 email * smshambeda@gmail.com See Steve at BYFG Meetings.

• Apple Washer/Dryer by Market Farm Implement (Friedens, PA) - \$3000 obo (\$4520 new) Japanese apple bags (pest control) - \$10 per 100 Aluminum/Rubber tree guards - \$25 for 20 Tree guard easy bender - \$50 or \$30 with min 40 tree guards Rick Stuby 610-217-2647

• NEW Soil Moist Plant Tabs 20 tablets \$5.00 contain beneficial fungi to make your plants stronger and to adapt to their new growing conditions. Dan Matesich. email- * camer00@atlanticbb.net See Dan at BYFG Meetings.

For Sale: Select Pawpaw Seeds. From fruit of Peterson Pawpaws - Allegheny, Shenandoah, Susquehanna, Rappahannock and Potomac. Seeds are stratified and ready to plant. Five (5) seeds \$15, Ten (10) seeds \$20, Twenty five (25) seeds \$30. Larger quantities available. Prices include shipping in padded mailer. Chris Patterson Phone - (717)-203-2961 Email - W3CMP@comcast.net

BYFG Mission: Backyard Fruit Growers is an all volunteer 501c-3 non-profit organization founded in 1990 in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. Our goal is to exchange, through workshops, seminars and seasonal educational newsletters, the skills needed to produce excellent fruit for the family, while respecting the backyard environment.