



BYFG WINTER WORKSHOPS

2026

Welcome New Subscribers!

FEBRUARY 2026

BYFG Winter Workshops

Saturday, February 21, 2026

From the West: Follow either Rt. 283 E. or 30 E. to Rt. 72 South (Manheim Pike exit). Turn right onto 72 S. toward Lancaster. From the Rt. 30 exit it's about 200 feet to a left onto Service Road, before Jones Honda. ** Continue straight past the stop sign to the Farm & Home lot.

From the East: Follow Rt. 30 W. to 283 W. toward Harrisburg. Immediately exit 283 onto Rt. 72 S. Manheim Pike. Go left onto 72 S. about a mile, then turn left onto Service Road (See right).



Getting to Farm & Home Center

February 21, 2026

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 BYFG Woodbank.

Send a \$15 check for a 2 year subscription; Address is inside on page 3

Renewal

New Subscription

(We'll send an *email* to subscribers 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 mailing label for subscription expiration

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BYFG Winter Workshops Saturday, February 21, 2026

BYFGs will hold Workshops Saturday, February 21, 2026. Doors Open @ 9:30 AM. Sign in and check in when entering the lobby of the Farm & Home Center. Bring your lunch! Payment in advance is requested since presenters must estimate how many participants to expect.

BYFG Friends and the Public \$5.00 per workshop in advance or \$10.00 at the Door. Fill out the sign up sheet, fold it, enclose it with payment, and send to *Howard Frysinger* or bring it to the Winter Meeting. There will be a sign-up table at the Winter Meeting.



Also, you can use PayPal at byfg.buck@gmail.com and pay with a credit card.

When paying with PayPal please include in the note box which classes you are signing up for and your full name.

⌚10:00 AM – Noon: Growing hardy kiwis with Les Beachy. Have you tasted these remarkable miniature kiwis yet? Every bit as delicious as the more familiar larger fuzzy kiwi, the smooth-skinned hardy kiwi is much easier to eat, skin and all. The fruits of these vigorous-growing natives of China come in a variety of flavors, colors, and sizes, and are ideal for fresh eating, as well as jams, pies, etc. And, just about every home gardener in North America can grow them. Subjects covered will be **selecting varieties, siting, spacing, trellising, training, and pruning**. Don't miss a golden opportunity to learn from the mistakes of someone who has grown them for over 25 years! As an added benefit, you can contact Les and stop by his farm for hands-on pruning experience.

⌚10:00 AM – Noon: Pawpaws: America's Forgotten Fruit: From seed to fruit 'Mr. Pawpaw,' Ted Weeden, shares his knowledge of this well-adapted and under-appreciated native fruit. Pawpaws, America's largest native tree fruit, aren't easy to grow from seed and get established. Ted will demonstrate the art of grafting. Ted knows how, growing dozens of varieties. He is well known at the Ohio Pawpaw Festival and the Kentucky State University Pawpaw Research Station, and has discovered many local native pawpaw stands. In September, you can join Ted on his Pawpaw tours.

⌚10:00 AM – Noon: Scion Collection with Chris Buck and Steve Shambeda. Please join this class to learn the best methods for proper scion collection and storage. Chris and Steve will discuss timing (when to collect), selection of specific wood, labeling, and multiple storage methods. Good quality scions are 50% of the grafting equation. Come learn the best techniques to ensure a successful grafting season.

⌚Noon – 1:00 PM: Bring your own lunch, or pop to the nearby Rt. 72 commercial strip. Buy replacement (empty) bee tubes from Pete Fisher. Trade in filled tubes for empty ones (see ad page 7).

⌚1:00 – 3:00 pm Hickories with Zach Elfers. Zach runs a small nursery called Future Forest Plants, which specializes in native tree crops like hickories, persimmon, walnuts, hazelnuts, chestnuts, plums, pawpaw, and more. In this talk, Zach will share his passion for hickory trees. He will touch on the many different varieties, their uses, wildlife value, history, grafting, and propagation among other things. Zach is a member of the Northern Nut Growers Association (NNGA), the North American Fruit Explorers (NAFEX), & the Keystone Tree Crops Cooperative (KTCC).

⌚1:00 – 3:00 PM Persimmon, quince, and medlar with Arian Hojat. Have you ever tasted a persimmon and wondered why some are sweet and crisp while others soften into a rich, jelly-like treat? Join us as we dive into the fascinating world of persimmons—covering everything from Asians/Americans/Hybrids, traditional Japanese drying, natural dyeing, and the remarkable diversity of varieties. We'll explore how breeders create new hybrids, why flower types matter, how various traits shape flavor, and which varieties might be suited for colder regions. Practical topics such as grafting techniques/timing, pests and diseases, and choosing popular nurseries for scion/rootstock. Don't miss this opportunity to discover one of the most unique and rewarding fruit trees you can grow — plus a look at equally intriguing odd fruits like quince, medlar, and che!

⌚1:00 – 4:45 PM Apple Tree Pruning Basics – Taught by Master Gardener Steve Shambeda and Ken Kuzdro, the presentation begins indoors with a thorough handout and discussion of pruning principles- 1 hour and 45 minutes in the classroom. Participants then carpool to receive hands-on training in pruning apples trees in Ken's nearby orchard - 2 hours. This session packs in a lot of useful information. Dress warmly and bring hand pruners, if you have them. Rain or shine.

The Pruning Workshop has extra time allotted. After the classroom session, participants carpool to BYFG supporter Ken Kuzdro's nearby orchard for lots of hands-on pruning, training, and practice. Steve will stay as long as required for participants to master the basics (or until it gets dark) !!

2026 BYFG Winter Workshops Registration Form

Please register only one person per form. This form may be copied.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Backyard Fruit Grower Member? Yes No

Classes: February 21, 2026

\$5 each class when registered and paid ahead of time. \$10 at the door

Morning Classes: 10:00 am - 12:00 pm	Check if Attending	Amount Due
Growing hardy kiwis \$5.00		
Pawpaws.....\$5.00		
Scion Collection\$5.00		
Afternoon Classes: 1:00pm – 3:00pm		
Growing Hickories.....\$5.00		
Persimmon, Quince, Medlar....\$5.00		
Pruning Workshop *note \$5.00		
* note: class time <u>1:00 – 4:45 PM</u>	Total	

Make checks payable to: BYFG

Mail form and payment to : BYFG

% Howard Frysinger
31 Seminary Road
Glenmoore, PA 19343

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-Return Service Requested-

- **North American Fruit Explorers (NAFEX)** - national organization similar to BYFG. <http://www.nafex.org/>
- **PA Assoc. for Sustainable Ag. PASA** Focus is on small scale farming. info@pasafarming.org/ <http://www.pasafarming.org> (814-349-9856).
- **Lancaster Co. Beekeepers Association.** *Established 1876* Tim Elkner secretary@lancasterbeekeepers.org www.lancasterbeekeepers.org
- **Chester County Beekeepers Assoc.** <http://www.chescobees.org/> Tina Mekinc Secretary secretary@chescobees.org 824 Crestview Drive, Springfield, PA. 19064.
- **North American Pawpaw Growers Association** NAPGA/OPGA <https://ohiopawpaw.com/>
keystonepawpaw@gmail.com
napga.opga@gmail.com



“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.