Jon Clements and Win Cowgill Received the 2013 International Fruit Tree Association's 'Extension Award'

Jon Clements and Win Cowgill were recognized at 56th Annual Conference and Intensive Workshop banquet of the IFTA in Boston, February 23--27, 2013. The theme for the conference was "Insights into Innovative Orchard Technology."

Mo Tougas, President of IFTA, made the presentation: "We have never had a tie before when selecting the recipients of this award, but this year we do. The award goes to a Rutgers University professor/area fruit agent and a University of Massachusetts extension educator, Win Cowgill and Jon Clements, respectively. These two guys have done a lot for our industry in the northeast and have worked closely together for the past twenty years to do it! They co-founded the 'Apple-Crop Listserv' (www.virtualorchard.net/applecrop.html) in 1994 and the Virtual Orchard website (www.virtualorchard.net) in 1995. They established a pruning and training website for cherry trees, (www.gielsacherry.com). Both have given their all for the growers and fruit industry in the Northeast" said Tougas.

In 2006, both Win and Jon were awarded International Fruit Tree Association's 'Outstanding Service to the Industry and Organization' for developing and maintaining the IFTA's original organization website from 1996-2005, and attending all Board meetings from 2000-2005. Win and Jon have been long-time active members of IFTA with over 53 years of combined service.

Win Cowgill, Professor and Area Fruit Agent for the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station,

Mo Tougas (right), president of the International Fruit Tree Association present IFTA's Annual Extension Award to Win Cowgill (left) and Jon Clements (center).

Win and Jon in the early days of the Virtual Orchard.

Rutgers Cooperative Extension, has been growing fruit and other deciduous tree fruit crops for over 34 years. Professor Cowgill, is co-editor of New Jersey Horticultural News (www.horticulturalnews.org) and Fruit Notes (www.umassfruitnotes.com). Professor Cowgill conducts extensive research and demonstration trials in all aspects of apple, peach, cherry and pear culture on 14 acres at the Rutgers Snyder Farm (snyderfarm.rutgers.edu/investigators/cowgill.html). His job at Rutgers is to serve the commercial orchardists in New Jersey and beyond. He is a sought out lecturer on apple culture worldwide and writes on his Jersey Fruit Ag Updates blog (jerseyfruitagupdates.blogspot.com).

Jon Clements has been an Extension Educator specializing in tree fruit horticulture at the University of Massachusetts Amherst since 2000 (extension.umass.edu/fruitadvisor and jmcextman.blogspot.com). Prior to that, he was the Michigan State University Berrien County Horticulture Agent from 1998-2000, and worked as a Field Research Technician with the University of Vermont apple team from 1989-1998. Clements has been progressive in bringing new technology and using innovative educational programming including video to make his audience better fruit growers. In addition to his Extension duties at the University of Massachusetts he also conducts numerous research/demonstration trials at the UMass Cold Spring Orchard Research & Education Center in Belchertown, MA.

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