New Jersey News

Rising from the Ashes

Donaldson's Farm suffered a significant fire in 2016. The fire completely leveled their equipment storage, which was full of farm equipment and supplies. Kieran Donaldson was able to rescue three tractors by driving them out of the fire but received second-degree burns as a result.

Two thousand bales of straw, a complete workshop, and all kinds of fruit and vegetable equipment were lost.

They have rebuilt and have a brand new building to house the workshop, produce packing line, cooler, and equipment and supply storage. Note the 1937 John Deere B in front of the new building; it was destroyed in the 2016 fire.

Greg Donaldson offers everyone a few words of advice, "Update your inventory with the insurance company on an annual basis. It's amazing how much value in miscellaneous tools and supplies accumulates over the years. I was extremely under insured!"

Stuart Race Passes

Dr. Stuart R. Race passed at the Bridgeway Care Center, Bridgewater, NJ surrounded by his family on May 31, 2017 at the age of 90.

Dr. Race was a cherished Extension Specialist of tree fruit with Rutgers Cooperative Extension for close to 30 years. Born in Glen Ridge on September 20, 1926, he was the son of the late Stuart R. Sr. and Martha Camp Race. A 1944 graduate of Newton High School, Newton, he attended Bloomfield College before transferring to Gettysburg College where he graduated in 1951. He received his MS degree in 1955 and his doctorate in entomology in 1957 from Rutgers University, New Brunswick. He was a member of the Lambda Chii Alpha, Beta Beta Beta, and Sigma Xi fraternities.

A US Army veteran of World War II, he served as a medical photographer from 1945 to 1946. Thereafter, photography and presenting slide shows for his family and friends was a favorite past time.

He was an extension specialist in entomology at Cook College, Rutgers University, New Brunswick from 1965 until retiring July 1, 1993. He published many research studies and was well known among the New Jersey farm community whom he advised regarding insect issues concerning vegetable and field crops, tree fruits, poultry, and livestock.

Dr. Race was a member of the Gardeners of Somerset Valley. He was a member, elder, deacon, and liaison to the Presbytery of Elizabeth at Pluckemin Presbyterian Church, where he was active in various church functions. He and his sons were involved with Boy Scout Troop 154 of Pluckemin. An avid golfer, he participated in the Somerset Businessmen's Golf League and enjoyed passing on his passion for golf to his sons and grandsons. He was member of the Hunterdon Health and Wellness Swim Club, the Rutgers Retirees Lunch Club, and a local pinochle club. He was a volunteer driver with the American Red Cross. He enjoyed travelling throughout the United States camping with his family; his favorite spot being Arches National Park in Utah. He fondly recalled cruising to Alaska and through the Panama Canal.

He was predeceased by his first born son, Peter Camp Race, who died in January 1958; and by a sister, Joan R. Rowen, who died in 2011. Dr. Race is survived by his wife of 60 years, Doris Rossetto Race; four children, Donna L. Freeby and her husband, Warren, of Bangor, PA, Andrew W. Race and his wife, Roxana, of Bridgewater, Susan L. Van Gelder and her husband, Paul of Denville, and Thomas S. Race and his wife, Melissa, of Wellington, FL; 11grandchildren; 2 great grandsons; and a great granddaughter due in July.

Funeral service were held at the Pluckemin Presbyterian Church on June 8, 2017. Memorial contributions should be made to the American Red Cross, the American Cancer Society, or the Pluckemin Presbyterian Church.

Editors' Note: Stu was one of the old time extension specialists who believed in the agricultural community and served farmers. He believed in young extension agents working closely with us, mentoring, conducting applied research trials with them on grower farms. By supporting young agents in this way Dr. Race ensured another generation of extension workers would succeed.

New Peach Planting 2017!

Kyle Reese and Dave Barclay of Eastmont Orchards near Colts Neck, NJ are proud of the new 20-acre peach planting that went in this spring. Photo credit Jerry Frecon.

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