

McIntosh News



**Record
crowds at
The Big E**
page 10

Nine-year-old Alyson pays for her apple at the New England Apple Association booth in the Massachusetts Building at the Eastern States Exposition ("The Big E") in September.

Photo by
Bar Lois Weeks

**Winning
pie apples**
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**We've got
mail!**
page 2



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McIntosh News is published quarterly by the New England Apple Association and distributed free to apple growers, agricultural organizations, and other friends of the New England apple industry. The nonprofit New England Apple Association is a grower-funded organization charged with raising awareness of apple varieties grown in New England.

For information regarding membership, editorial submissions or advertising, please contact:

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Apple Association

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Website traffic surpasses 2012 after only nine months

Through the first nine months of 2013, hits to the New England Apple Association website, newenglandapples.org, totaled 1,488,786, more than the site attracted during the entire previous year, and a 63 percent increase over the first three-quarters of 2012. The website drew 40,430 visitors from January 1 through September, compared to 26,490 during the same time period in 2012, an increase of 53 percent.

With more than 600,000 hits and more than 10,000 visitors in October alone, the site has already topped 2 million hits and 50,000 visitors in 2013, with more than two months to go.

Stories behind the stats

The bare numbers on the New England Apple Association website are impressive, but they do not tell the whole story. Who are the people who visit newenglandapples.org? Where do they come from, and what are they looking for?

While we are unable to quantify this information, a sampling of the letters and emails we have received just in October reveals a wide range of interests from a diverse group of people. One thing they have in common is a hunger for New England apples and for information about their special characteristics, uses, and histories.

Subject: New England Apple brochures

Two years ago you sent me copies of the *New England Apples* brochure, which we used in our English conversation class. We are going to talk about apple-picking and varieties and recipes again this year. If the brochure is still available, could you please send us some? Twelve would be wonderful, but even just a couple would be appreciated, as the women can share.

We teach English conversation skills to wives of MIT students and visiting faculty from around the world. Our ladies this semester are from Chile, Argentina, Brazil, France, Montenegro, Belarus, Italy, Iran, Japan, South Korea, China, Japan, and Taiwan.

Best regards,
Laurie Scott

M.I.T. Women's League, Arlington, Massachusetts

Fall 2013

Can you please send a couple of copies of your *New England Apples* brochure to me? I am volunteering at a Cooperative School and will be doing an apple program for several classes.

Thank you very much and I hope you had a great season!

Regards,
Kim, Sharon, Massachusetts

Please send me a free brochure on how to use each New England apple. Thank you.

Janet, Contoocook, New Hampshire

I found your contact information after seeing your poster/brochure at Honey Pot Hill Orchards in Stow, Massachusetts, this afternoon. I am not a teacher (as your website seems to require), but I simply love apples. I eat them every day.

Would it be possible to get two copies of your beautiful brochure that doubles as the New England Apples poster?

If this is possible, my mailing address is below. You have my sincere thanks,

Sarahjoy, Arlington, Massachusetts

Purchasing Rhode Island Greenings online

I have been trying to locate an apple orchard, vendor/supplier, or online fruit market/store to purchase Rhode Island Greening apples. It is difficult to find anyone online that sells apples, much less Rhode Island Greenings.

All of the suppliers/vendors of apples that I have been able to find do not have Rhode Island Greening apples on their list of available varieties.

I have emailed the New York Apple Association and visited countless websites, to no avail. I would appreciate it very much if you could provide me with any information you have on an online merchant that sells Rhode Island Greenings to regular consumers, not commercial, or in bulk quantities.

Your prompt response will be very much appreciated. Thank you very much for your time and assistance. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Very Respectfully,
Dyhan Fraser



One of the apple photographs sent to us by Joe in Vermont (more photos on next page). If you think you know what they are, email us your guess at info@newenglandapples.org and we will pass it along.

Subject: Apples from Vermont

I don't know if you can help me identify some apple trees on an old farm in Vermont, but if you can it would greatly appreciated. I'm also looking for help to graft some of the old timers to preserve the

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Three apples from Brownsville, Vermont, in need of identification. A fourth is on the previous page.

fruit so if you know anyone with those skills I'd love to start a dialog on preservation.

Best,
Joe, Brownsville, Vermont

Thanks for taking a look at the photos I sent you. Those apples are from trees around the house here in Brownsville. I hiked out into the woods this morning to a grove just off our property that the local hunters stake out (always pack an orange vest

for Vermont) in deer season and collected some samples from those old trees.

On the way back out I took samples from two apple trees along the pasture. These are really interesting fruits to taste. One is yellow and very russeted and tastes like a pear, and the other is yellow with red dots/streaks and some russeting on its base. It tastes citrusy and has white flesh that is not crisp.

Joe

Subject: Apple identification

My husband and I have just moved into a 1903 Colonial in Concord, Massachusetts. We inherited four large apple trees that had been neglected and overgrown. Part of our renovation over the past 19 months involved caring for the trees.

We have such a bumper crop of apples that we've lost several limbs due to the apples' weight. We live across the street from an organic farm and orchard, and the owner is a friend. He came over and ID'd one Mac and two Baldwins, but he isn't sure about the fourth.

I enclose a handful of apples from that tree, with the hope that you might be able to tell me what they are. Thank you!

Sarah
Concord, Massachusetts

Your website is excellent. Could you help me identify the apples growing in our garden in Westport, Connecticut? There are five trees more than 50 years old. I have attached photos taken today. I picked these apples from two of the trees.

Thank you.

June, Westport, Connecticut

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Left:
This small, sour fruit from Concord, Massachusetts, suggests crabapples.

Right: We think these apples from Westport, Connecticut, are Benoni (or a close relative), an heirloom discovered in Dedham, Massachusetts in the early 1800s.



Since our last email exchange, I took samples of my apples to two local orchards to get the opinion of the owners. Both independently said the apples were related to Delicious because of the “snub nose” form at the bottom. But each said they tasted unlike Delicious so could be an heirloom or older variety.

May I send you samples from two different trees, because their texture and taste should tell you a lot more than a photo? Please give me an address and I will send the apples overnight, first thing tomorrow. Thank you.

June

Thank you for so diligently pursuing the apple identification. I believe five trees were planted in the 1960s when our property was carved out of a

larger parcel. The man who built the original house, Harry Suttentfield, has since died, as has his wife. I did locate one of his children, Keith, who is or was a hydroponic farmer in Australia (Booyoun Dydroponics) and sent him an email, but there was no response.

The four remaining trees are each over 60 feet tall. It is possible that they were not grafted. I don't know how to tell. I can send photos of the trees and leaves if that would help. Looking forward to hearing what you have found in your inquiry.

June

Subject: Looking for a Rood apple

(This was forwarded to us by the Connecticut Department of Agriculture)

My name is Josh Rood, and while I'm a resident

of New York state, I'm currently on the hunt for some information regarding an agricultural product from Connecticut and I thought your office might be of help.

First a quick bit of background. After researching my own family genealogy, I came across an interesting legend regarding a variety of apple that was native to the New Haven/Windham areas (specifically Franklin, Connecticut) and began hunting for an existing tree or cutting for grafting purposes to preserve a bit of the family history. It's known by several names: the Rood Apple, the Mike Apple, and in some instances the Bloody-Heart Apple.

My research has shown that in the 1930s a hurricane that came ashore wiped out much of the cultivated stock of trees, effectively rendering them extinct. But since they were locally very popular, there were many trees planted at private homes and residences that may have survived.

I know this is a long shot, but I thought it was possible that your office has access to records of where the apples were bought and sold commercially, and therefore could give me a few possible township locations for my search. Truthfully, any information would be of help.

Thank you again for your time, and I hope to speak with you soon.

Best Regards,
Joshua, Farmington, New York

**Subject: Our Apple Farm
in Redding, Connecticut**

We are the owners of a small apple farm in Connecticut. In the fields are three apple trees we can't identify. Two are very old trees and one we bought as a Red Delicious, but the apples don't look and taste like one.

Would it be possible to send you a sample from each tree with a picture of the tree to help us naming these three trees? Or where else could we go with our problem? Thank you.

Sylvia and Paul Rutkowski, Redding, Connecticut

Just sent off the three apple samples and they should be at your place latest tomorrow at noon. Hope they are still fresh and good looking ... Can't

wait to hear if you are able to recognize these apples. Anyway thank you very much for your help ...

Sylvia

Subject: Looking for apple orchard
~ an hour west of Newton, Massachusetts
Norquoroque Orchards???

Karin, Newton, Massachusetts

Subject: Photos

My husband is an extreme apple enthusiast and I am working on a project for his birthday. I am making a poster of all his favorite apple varieties for his home office.

I was wondering if I might have permission to use some of your excellent photos from your website? They are just the kind I am looking for.

This poster is for our own personal use, we will not be selling it. Also, I would be happy to put copy-right information on the poster, if you wish.

Thank you for your consideration.

Julie, Laurelville, OH

Subject: Jonamac apples

I bought some Jonamac apples at my local Publix store and they no longer have any. I wondered if there is any way I could get some. My mother is 97 and from Indiana and she has been wanting a Snow apple and they are the same or surely close, just wanted to get her more.

Thanking you in advance for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Ron, Inverness, Florida

Subject: McIntosh memories, and a question

My name is Glen Davis. I live in Mobile, Alabama, and I write because I love McIntosh apples. Or should I say, I love *real* McIntosh apples. It seems that a new variety has been bred that must ship better and have a longer shelf life because the versions we've gotten down here the last few years bear little resemblance to the apples I have loved for so long.

Instead of soft flesh, the new "McIntosh" are as crispy as a firm Red Delicious. Rather than the perfect balance of sweet and tart, the apple I bit into today was sour as a Granny Smith. And the fragrance, perhaps the most wondrous aspect of a genuine McIntosh, well, *what fragrance?* Indeed, one of my

favorite grocery store experiences used to happen every September or October when I'd excitedly pick up and smell the first bag of the season. Amazing! Or, it used to be. Now, I just smell plastic.

Here's my question. Does the real McIntosh still exist? Is there perhaps an orchard you might recommend that could ship to me the apples of my memories? If so, I'd appreciate a recommendation. I don't want this fall to pass by without having enjoyed the genuine article, that is, a soft, fragrant, perfectly balanced McIntosh.

I greatly appreciate your help in this.
Sincerely,

Glen, Mobile, Alabama

**Subject: Ashmead's Kernel
and Keepsake apples**

I have been scouring the Internet for a good place to purchase apple trees. I am specifically looking to buy from someone somewhat "local" here in New England. Would you have any suggestions for the two types of apple varieties I have listed above?

Many thanks, indeed!

Lori

Elwin Hardy recognized by *Fruit Grower*

The late Elwin Hardy of Brookdale Fruit Farm in Hollis, New Hampshire, was honored as a finalist for the annual "Apple Grower Of The Year" award made by the editors of *American/Western Fruit Grower Magazine*. This year's winner was Cordell Watt of Timber Ridge Fruit Farm LLC in Gore, Virginia.

Here is what the editors wrote about Elwin Hardy:

"Elwin Hardy passed away at the age of 92 on January 23, 2013, but his legacy and example as a leader in the industry continue with his son Charles Hardy and his grandsons, Trevor and Tyler. Elwin, past president of Brookdale Fruit Farm Inc. located in Hollis, New Hampshire, was the fourth-generation leader of the family farm, started in 1847. Brookdale is the largest commercial apple farm in New Hampshire.

"Elwin was a commercial member of the New Hampshire Fruit Growers Association and the New England Apple Association. He was one of the founding members of International Tree Fruit Association and recently received its Outstanding Industry Service Award at the 2013 annual conference. Elwin served as chairman of the rootstock research committee for 21 years, was the first to plant dwarf apple trees in New England in the late 1950s, and was involved in trial dwarf tree plantings with the University of New Hampshire."

2014 New England Apples wall calendar available



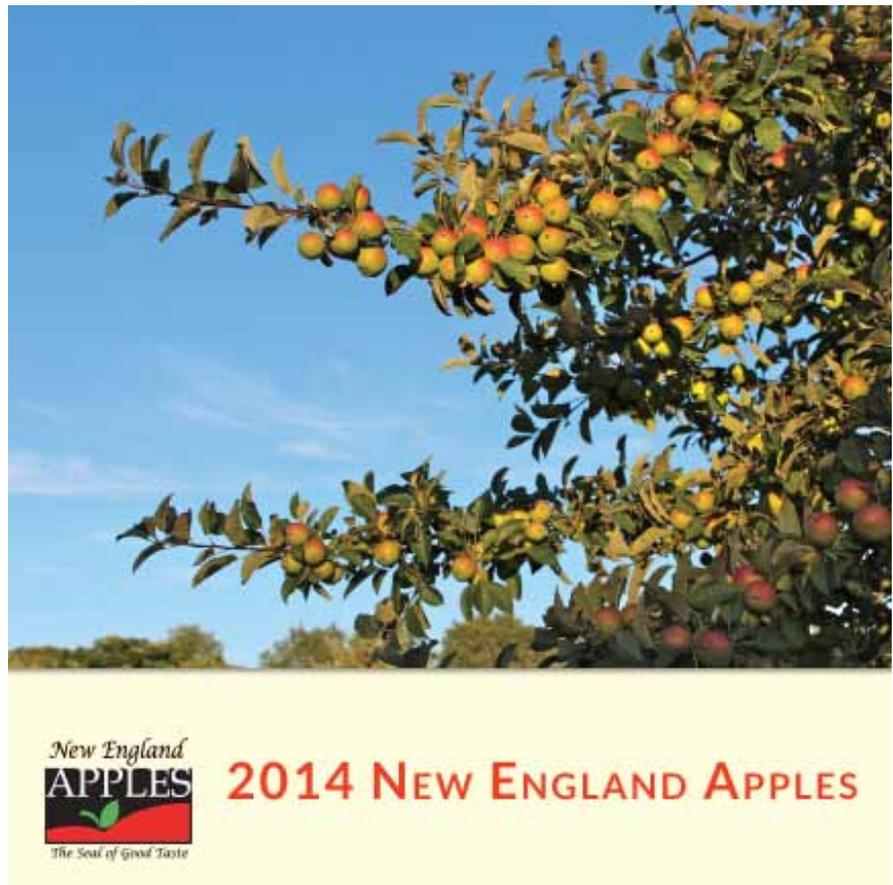
"The orchard retains its beauty long after the last apples are harvested," the featured calendar image for next September, from Chapin Orchard, Essex Junction, Vermont (photo by Bar Lois Weeks)

Member orchards received their supplies of the 2014 New England Apples wall calendar in mid-September. The 12"x12", four-color calendar features photographs by Russell Steven Powell and Bar Lois Weeks from orchards throughout the six-state region, plus photos and descriptions of a dozen apple varieties. The calendar includes listings of member orchards inside the back cover with contact information including web addresses.

Individual calendars can be ordered for \$10.95 (price includes shipping). To order, send a check to New England Apples, PO Box 41, Hatfield, MA 01038, or email info@newenglandapples.org.

Member orchards interested in getting additional copies or for general inquiries about wholesale orders, email info@newenglandapples.org or call 203-439-7006.

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here!**



THE 2014 NEW ENGLAND APPLES wall calendar
is now available for order.

The 12"x12", four-color calendar features
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from orchards throughout the six-state region,
plus photos and descriptions of a dozen apple varieties.

The calendar price of \$10.95 includes shipping.
To order, send a check to New England Apples, PO Box 41, Hatfield, MA 01038
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Winning pie apples



Judge Bar Lois Weeks, executive director of the New England Apple Association, looks over the pies before the “Great New England Apple Pie Contest.” Eventual winner Lori Meiners is photographing her pie in the background.

One winning pie used just Golden Delicious while the other featured a mix of four varieties in the fourth annual “Great New England Apple Pie Contest.” The event was held Saturday, October 19, during the first day of Wachusett Mountain’s weekend-long Applefest.

Lori Meiners of Hubbardston, Massachusetts,

won first prize in the “Apple Only” category with her pie made with Golden Delicious. Anita Mochi of Winthrop, Massachusetts, used Cortland, Honeycrisp, Jonagold, and Granny Smith in her winning entry in “Apple and Other,” Apple Praline Pie.

For more about the event and to see the recipes, visit [Winning Apple Pies](#).

Record crowds at 'The Big E'



Cheryl Pigeon, Bar Weeks, and Russ Powell staff the New England Apples booth in the Massachusetts State Building.

The 2013 Eastern States Exposition (“The Big E”) was a big success, with perfect weather and record crowds. The fair, New England’s largest, attracted nearly 1.5 million visitors during its 17-day run September 13 through September 29.

For the 11th consecutive year, New England Apple Association promoted the fresh apple harvest with a booth in the Massachusetts State Building. The Association sold fresh apples and cider, baked goods, and the 2014 New England Apples wall calendar, and passed out free literature featuring the region’s orchards.

Fresh apples were supplied by **Atkins Farms** in Amherst, **Brookfield Orchards** in North Brookfield, **Carlson Orchards** in Harvard, **Clarkdale Fruit Farms** in Deerfield, **Cold Spring Orchard** in Belchertown, **Pine Hill Orchards** in Colrain, **Red Apple Farm** in Phillipston, and **Tougas Family Farm** in Northborough.

The booth featured cider donuts made by **Atkins Farms** in Amherst, fresh apple cider from **Carlson Orchards** in Harvard; and apple crisp and single-serving apple pies from **Cook’s Orchard** in Brimfield.

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Cheryl Pigeon, as shown by her collection of photo IDs, has been a hard-working Big E employee since 2002, the last six years with New England Apples.



ABOVE: Russ Powell and Kevin Weeks renamed Jonagold “Glamour Gold” when this bushel came in from Cold Spring Orchard, Belchertown, Massachusetts. BELOW: Eileen Fisher of Windsor Locks, Connecticut, buys five pounds of her beloved Macouns, also grown at Cold Spring Orchards.





One-year-old twins Judah and Levi of Douglas, Massachusetts, loved Silken, a newer variety offered by Cold Spring Orchard, Belchertown, Massachusetts.

McIntosh from Brookfield Orchards in North Brookfield; Gala from Red Apple Farm in Phillipston; and Ginger Gold from Clarkdale Fruit Farms in Deerfield — three of the 14 varieties offered at the New England Apples booth.



Photographs by Bar Lois Weeks



Matthew and Jessica Carona of Ludlow, Massachusetts, share apple pie à la mode with daughter Natalia.



Louise Chmela of Tewksbury, Massachusetts, thought the Ginger Golds from Tougas Family Farm in Northborough, Massachusetts, were the best pick of the day.



Brothers Kevin and Chris Weeks refill the cider dispenser with fresh, ever-popular Carlson cider, from Carlson Orchards in Harvard, Massachusetts.



After trying his first Atkins cider donut, Iggy Mwela of Austin, Texas, said he was “dough-nuts” for them.



Russ Powell talks about the apple crop with Governor Deval Patrick during “Massachusetts Day” September 19 as Commissioner of Agriculture Greg Watson enjoys a cup of cider in the background. Patrick has several apple trees on his property in the Berkshires. (Eric Haynes photo/Governor’s Office)



Connecticut couple Thomas Springer and Gillian Westphal celebrate Johnny Appleseed’s birthday by sharing apple crisp September 26.



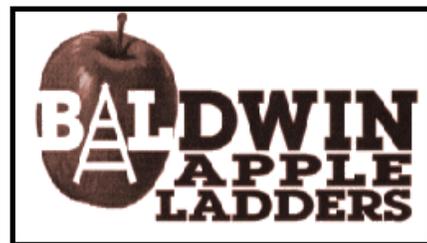
Alyson, 9, and Austin, 8, spent their only money on apples!



Michael and Renee of East Haven, Connecticut, have a treat in store — they are about to try their first Atkins cider donut made by Atkins Farms, Amherst, Massachusetts.



Tim Matson of Westfield, Massachusetts, backtracked to the Massachusetts State House to buy our apple crisp à la mode.



Peter Baldwin, Proprietor

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New England Apple Day officially launches 2013 harvest



The 2013 New England Apple Day was held Wednesday, September 4. This New England-wide apple harvest kick-off was launched four years ago by the New England Apple Association to draw attention to the fresh harvest around the time McIntosh and many other popular varieties are ready for picking. The New England state commissioners of agriculture visited orchards, packinghouses, or cider mills on New England Apple Day to meet with growers, producers, and media, learn about the 2013 crop, and enjoy a fresh-picked apple. Rhode Island had its celebration September 6, in conjunction with the 100th anniversary of the Rhode Island Fruit Growers Association.



TOP: The view at Wellwood Orchards, Springfield, Vermont

ABOVE: Owners Jonathan and Peg Morse bite into a ripe McIntosh at The Big Apple in Wrentham, Massachusetts

RIGHT: The family-run Foppema's Farm in Northbridge, Massachusetts: Ken, Lisa, and son Evan



Massachusetts photos by Bar Lois Weeks
Vermont photos by Russell Powell



TOP: Green Mountain Orchards, Putney, Vermont

ABOVE: Rick LeBlanc of the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources with Jonathan Morse at The Big Apple, Wrentham, Massachusetts

RIGHT: Douglas Orchards, West Shoreham, Vermont

America's Apple



Russell Steven Powell
With photographs by Bar Lois Weeks

“*America’s Apple* is a thorough and informative tour of the landscape of American apples in the 21st century and a sympathetic portrait of the intrepid New England farmers who grow them.”

— Hannah Nordhaus, author of *The Beekeeper’s Lament*

“If you love apples (and who doesn’t?), this book will interest you. It’s a colorful story about the culture of apples, sweet with plenty of juicy details, a crisp prose style and tart observations.”

—The Moosewood Collective, owners of Moosewood Restaurant, celebrating 40 years of operation in Ithaca, New York, and authors of 13 natural foods cookbooks

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