Preface and Introduction

This picture book honors my connection to pawpaw trees beginning three decades ago. In 1989 I moved to two acres of land in Hardwick. Edible landscaping became a mission that I embraced with passion and persistence. I struggled to plant trees, shrubs, and vegetable beds in rocky, thin soil on top of ledge. I succeeded by watering frequently and constantly amending with organic matter that included composted sheep barn bedding and manure. I purchased my first Sunflower seedling Asimina triloba trees in 1996 from Tripple Brook Farm in Southampton, MA. Fruiting required being patient for ten years.



Seasonal Photos from Flowers to Fruits

My favorite time with the pawpaw trees is May. I encourage fly pollinators by adorning the trees with stinky treats. I enjoy watching female flowers transition to tiny fingered fruits or male flowers with pollen. Flies shuttle pollen to stigmas on new female flowers. I enjoy the taste of menudo stew served in San Diego. However, the canned version is intolerable. Instead of tossing the can, I saw value as a fly attractant. I think a coyote stole the sausage at night by snapping off the branch. The menudo stew can remained undisturbed for three weeks of pollination.



More May Amazing Pollination Beauty



In June mature pawpaw trees are adorned with many small and stellated fruits. Watering is important to quench the thirst of thickly matted roots. The foliage and young fruit benefit from humidity from rain and sprinkler hoses.



Here are more images pawpaw fruits shaped like stars in June. Many are on my oldest tree. For a few years this was my only flowering pawpaw tree. Fruits came solely from self-pollination of this Sunflower seedling from Tripple Brook Farm in 1996.



July pawpaw clusters are satisfying to stare at as they increase greatly in size. However, fruit are still far away from ripening.



Throughout the year I receive many requests concerning pawpaws. My website whitesfieldsfarm.com rates high in pawpaw searches. In spring, people want pollen and potted trees. As early as June, some people think I have fresh ripe fruit. I response to all texts, phone calls, and emails with patience. However, I wish more pawpaw seekers would read my website FAQ before contacting me. Often, I exchange multiple texts, emails, and phone calls for a single fruit request for someone that wants to try one before buying a tree. In the early days, I did a lot of running around for in exchange for 25 cents per fruit. I realize now that I need to better value and respect my own time and labor.



6/16/18, 5:39 PM

Do you have fruit for sale at the market tomorrow?

6/16/18, 5:39:39 PM

I am away and will not be vending. The pawpaw trees begin having ripe fruit in September.

Thanks for the response. See you in September.

5/21/19, 6:18:12 AM Yes! Thank you? ! Not ? Sorry yes I can pick it up tonight, if you are still at work at Okay, perfect 5/21/19, 12:06 PM This has a great video on pollination POLLINATION — Peterson Pawpaws petersonpawpaws.com 5/21/19, 5:02 PM I have a blue Ford Focus 5/22/19, 8:34 PM (g) I only found (what looked like) one female flower. All the rest had passed. I did use a paintbrush and try. Should I save the pollen for next year? think you could find someone with a flowering pawpaw Ok. T Ту How will I know when they are ready to be picked? It is best to harvest using your sense of touch. I am guessing the the fruit is still hard and it is too early to pick. When the skin yields to your finger pressure like a ripe avocado, then go ahead and harvest. You may see some yellowing of the skin as well. Ripe tree will drop from the tree sometimes. Do you worry about frosts. I have continued to harvest into November for some years. A ripe fruit fragrance is another indicator, too. Thank you, again, for your help. I've waiting a long time! Pawpaws and patience go together Laughing. Not easy. But I'm very pleased. Do you sell any trees? No. I recommend buying Peterson grafted varieties such as Shenandoah

I see do you know anyone who sells in mass?

My pawpaw presence on Google took off after the Boston based TV show Chronicle featured Hardwick as a Mystery Town destination on November 14, 2011. The day after the broadcast, my colleagues at Worcester Polytechnic Institute named me the Pawpaw Queen. My regal title and high-ranking with web searches continue to this day.

------ Original Message ------Subject: Chronicle Mystery Main Streets
From: clintonconley@comcast.net
Date: Thu, November 03, 2011 7:16 am
To: jenn@hardwickwinery.com

Hi folks,

Apologies for the mass-blast e-mail -- you all deserve better!

But I wanted to get word out that we have an airdate for our program-- Monday, Nov. 14. That's WCVB, Ch. 5 Boston at 7:30 p.m. But you knew that....

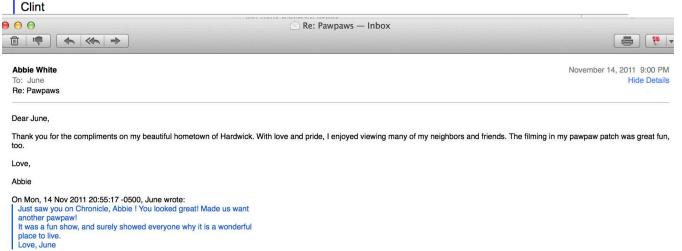
For those of you with businesses that have websites, mailing lists, etc. please keep in mind, this is a "Mystery" Main Streets, where we invite viewers to guess where we are. We reveal our location later in the program, revisiting and identifying the businesses profiled earlier in the show.

We can hardly ask you to refrain from spreading the word-- we like the publicity too! But perhaps you could gently ask your followers and devotees not to give our mystery location away on the Chronicle website and Facebook page [where we invite viewers to guess where we are]

Keeping the genie inside the bottle is, ultimately impossible...but we want to at least try to keep the game alive for as many as possible.

Big thanks to all!

Cheers,



Worth the drive~!

After watching Chronicle's "Hardwick" episode I headed out on Sunday to Hardwick to go to Rose 32, Hardwick Winery and Robinson's Dairy Farm (and to find PawPaws but they were out ie; season over).

RE: My Pawpaw trees are on Chronicle on WCVB TV Channel 5 7:30 PM tonight

Rosslyn Bradley

Sent: Tuesday, November 15, 2011 at 10:06 PM

To: White, Abbie C.

You replied to this message on 11/16/11, 8:49 AM.

Abbie – congratulations, you media star! Single-handedly ensuring the continuance of the pawpaw - good job. Hugs, Ross

Gobi, Anne - Rep. (HOU)

To: Abbie White chronicle

Great to see Hardwick featured last night-save me a paw-paw! Anne



🕒 🔍 Re: pawpaw update

neal@petersonpawpaws.com

Sent: Tuesday, November 15, 2011 at 6:31 PM

To: White, Abbie C.

Thanks, Abbie. Good for you, getting on the news with your pawpaws, and for selling them at the farmers market. I have sent the link on to Dr. Pomper at Kentucky State University.

Neal

Dear Neal,

Your trees that I received in 2005 are doing well in Massachusetts. I have been selling the Shenandoah fruit at my local farmer's market. A Boston TV station broadcast video of me with my pawpaw grove last night. I thought you might enjoy the show. I imagine that this show and your NPR interview has stimulated more interest in these wonderful fruit trees.

Best wishes,

Steve Breyer Tripple Brook Farm, Inc. office: (413) 527-4626 info@tripplebrookfarm.com http://www.tripplebrookfarm.com/

On 11/15/2011 12:23 PM, White, Abbie C. wrote:

Dear Steve.

The pawpaws that I purchased from you in 1996 and 2001 are doing great. I have been selling them at the Hardwick Farmers Market for the past 5 years. The link here is for video footage that was broadcast last night. I hope you enjoy the story and receive more orders from customers for your wonderful pawpaw trees. As you might guess, the necklace I am wearing is made of pawpaw seeds.

As harvest season approaches requests come from far away...

Tony from Mississauga, Ontario. I want to thank you for letting us see your beautiful farm and your pawpaw patch. I let the fruit ripen like you said. When I noticed it was giving off a wonderful scent, I cut it open and -wow! It is a delicious fruit! I am definitely going to try growing some in my yard.

Hi Abbie, Hope everything is well on your side of the border.

I was reading through our last email exchange... Dating two and a half years ago... Ouch! So much happened since then, yet the last two years are kind of foggy...I've been thinking a lot about going back to Massachusetts in October for the pawpaw harvest. The first time I had the chance to visit you was also the last...I took the liberty to read on your website and to my surprise, I read about "the lovely couple from Quebec city" that once came to your house just to buy pawpaws. Well the lovely couple now have a third member in the family! Would be awesome to come by your place and have him taste a few fruits!

To:mail whitesfieldsfarm.com

Mon 10/1/2018 3:37 PM

warm greetings whitesfield farm,

i am writing this email in regards to the current paw paw season & learning about the availability of the lovely fruit that you have nurtured & grown.

i would love to visit the farm & learn about the trees, appreciate the earth & soil where these fruits have been birthed from. alas, i understand if you are interested in selling the fruits solely with no moments to educate others. perhaps another year even, if you are ever interested in doing so.

i am also interested in purchasing some fruit from you, if you still have some, hence this email to check on availability, i live in burlington, vermont, but grateful to have transportation, enabling me to be able to pick up & pay in person.

thank you for your time, patience & consideration.

I am sorry, but I have had bad experiences with shipping. One package I sent to North Carolina ended up in shipment for two weeks and the fruit arrived rotted. There is considerable time involved with packing, printing a shipping label and dropping off a box. I hope that you can find fresh pawpaws somewhere near where you live in your beautiful state.

Hello Abbie! I'm wondering if you are reserving pawpaws for this season? My grafted trees are in their third year and haven't set fruit yet. I've never had one and am dying to try them! If they will be available, I'd love to place an order. I'm in Dallas. TX.

For France shipment of seeds are listed as restricted. Live plants are listed as prohibited. The pawpaw seeds are very much alive when viable for planting. In fact, they need to be always kept moist to prevent loss of viability. So, I do not see an exception here unless a plant health certificate is obtained.

Hi there, my name is Amber and I'm very interested in purchasing a shipment of paw paw fruit if at all possible. I live in Oregon and have not been able to find any on the west coast so far. Thank you for your time and I look forward to hearing from you

The Pandemic resulted in more interest in growing food and edible and native landscaping. In 2021 I responded to 122 people concerning pawpaw fruit and trees. For a while I had quick copy and paste responses. Google Sheets helped me to organize and track requests. I am still getting comfortable with texting, but still refuse to use the salutation 'Hey'.

Hello how's it going? Very interested in pawpaw fruits and trees. I found this number for information so Im reaching out. Looking forward to hearing from you, thank you

This is Abbie and who are you? The pawpaw request list is very long and the fruit is still ripening.

9/17/20, 8:01 AM

Will you have any pawpaws at the Hardwick Farmers Market this Sunday?

They still need time to ripen on the tree and possibly at least a week. I have harvested zero so far this season.

I live in Amherst and it would not be hard for me to come over to help harvest...socially distancing of course, if needed

> My problem is that over three dozen people want pawpaws and I have none that are ripe yet. I noticed that other pawpaw farms are short on supply this season.

We also have had a bad year for many wild apples. Let me know if you have some pawpaws for sale and we can connect



10/29/19, 7:41 PM

Thanks again for bringing the pawpaws. Really nice to meet you and to chat.

Thank you! You remind me that I meet the nicest and most interesting people through pawpaws. I hope that your pollination plans for the spring attract plenty of flies

Ha— thanks! Me too! Jeff was happy to hear that you attract them in with meat. He's just as excited to try these as I am. We are considering having friends over for a taste-testing.

Pawpaw Fruit farming is wonderful way to meet people

Hi Abbie, this is Thuy. Thank you so much for getting back to my email regarding the Pawpaw fruits. I was wondering if you have any fruits that have not been reserved on Sunday 10/4? Thank you in advance!

10/3/20, 7:52 AM

Dear Thuy, I will a few pawpaws available for purchase at the Hardwick Farmers Market on Sunday from 11-2. Demand exceeds supply and so I will accept reserve requests. They are \$3 for a large fruit, \$2 for small. How many are you looking for?

Can I request 3 large pawpaw if available? Thank you so much 😄

I will have these waiting for you in a box. Thank you!

Awesome! I'm so excited to try them for the first time ever! Is it possible if you can give me the exact address for the farmers market? I found a couple and don't want to head to the wrong one

Too from leannaiynne@gmail.com) riding my bicycle from Worcester tomorrow — want to make sure I can get one pawpaw (at least!).

I am impressed that you will ride your bike. I will have at least one beautiful pawpaw waiting for you! I will be at the Hardwick Farmers Market <u>from 11-2</u>

Delivered

Oh my god I am so so happy! 😂 🎉 see you tomorrow!

10/19/19, 3.48 PM

Thank you again, Apple for these delicious fruits. They remind me of the milk fruit. Can't wait to have them grow in my yard too.

Please thank Stan for his hospitality as well. We appreciate you letting us come by to see your trees.

Stan and I enjoyed your visit very much. I wish you and Billy well with all your gardening activities.

Meeting more people seeking pawpaws

Hi there,

I tried pawpaws for the first time last year and quickly became addicted. I thought I had a way to get a few this year but it just fell through, which is even more sad because this year I finally have a yard where I can start to germinate the seeds!

So if you have any left over, I am very willing and happy to drive to meet you and pick them up. Please let me know!!! I can get to the Hardwick Farmers Market tomorrow morning, if we confirm that you still have some available!

And if this at all pulls on your heartstrings, I'm 7.5 months pregnant. Another reason I wanted the seeds is so that I can plant it the same time our first daughter is born. One of my friends did that with her son and I always liked the idea of the child and the tree being the same age.

Ma'am,

Just perused your website. Am trying to get my own paw paw grove going - I live in Carlisle, MA. Ordered some bare root trees this year, very early, but they did not take. Just ordered some potted trees from Triple Brook and hope they can go in successfully in the fall. I've never tried the fruit and am very anxious to do so. Any hints or recommendations you have are most welcome!

Hi Abbie, I found your website after hearing about paw paws and I would love the opportunity to try one (or 2 if possible) this season. Happy to meet you at the farmers market you described!

Hi I am looking to buy Pawpaws and I came across your farm on the internet.

What is the closest to Boston I can get them? Do I need to drive to the farm or you go to a farmer's market?

Please let me know

Good evening Abie!

My name is Jennifer and I'm wondering if you mail Paw Paw fruit?

I'm in Massachusetts near Boston MA

but I don't have a car.

11/4/20, 8:18 PM

I have had some bad experiences with mailing pawpaw fruit. Still Life Farm is selling my pawpaws at their farmers markets. One is in Jamaica plain

11/5/20, 8:17 AM

Oh okay thank you for letting me know. I'll look into it. Have a wonderful weekend

iPhone voicemail transcription often screws up the word pawpaw



I'm sure you have a lot of these weird ass request so I like I would love a couple times _____ __ __ that would be great um if you could call me back that would be cool thank you bye..."

Was this transcription useful or not useful?

Transcription

"Hi Abby um my name is Boagni I was inquiring about the Paul Paul um I was wanting to get from him and I'm not sure if um I can text you on the amount I want him and I do see that you have some contact information on where to meet if you can just please give

Transcription

"Hi Abby my name is Cheryl I was gonna Eastern Massachusetts and I'm interested in getting a sample of even one pop off a family wants to try to see if it's something you're interested in growing I tried to email you but

Apple technology success!

Transcription

"I am looking for paw paw trees or fruit for that matter but really I'm looking for trees my number is

Many repeat customers are kind and interesting people.

Hi Abbie, this is Jeff from Boston, I really enjoyed the Pawpaw from you last year and want to check if you plan sell them at the Hardwick farmers market tomorrow?

Dear Jeff, I am glad that you contacted me. Your Hardwick visits last year were delightful. This year I am setting aside the pawpaws to meet requests in advance. This has been a difficult growing season. Most of the fruit remains unripe and is likely to not mature. Please let me know how many pawpaws you want and they will be waiting for you. Right now I have mostly large and excellent quality Shenandoah fruit at \$2.50 each. If you show up around 1:45 PM, you can follow me at the market closure time back to the farm.

Thank you Abbie that sounds great, may I reserve 12 pawpaws to pick up tomorrow around 1:45 pm please? My sister is visiting and I'm hoping to introduce her to it

You are all set and I look forward to seeing you <u>at 1:45</u> PM.

Delivered

That's perfect thank you so much Abbie! I look forward to visiting you tomorrow

10/19/19, 8:24:13 AM

Thank you!! Can't wait.. my girlfriend is literally drooling over the pawpaw Facebook pics.. she's more anxious than me to come over.

We'll hang tight and hope everything ripens soon.

Take care and give my hello hugs to Stan as well!

10/22/20, 2:55 PM

Hi Ronnie, I have had a bad year with the pawpaw fruit compared to last year. I know that you have a long drive. My question to you is if you still want to come out here in the next few days? Otherwise, we can be hopeful for a better crop next year. If you come, you will still get a few ripe pawpaws. This will be a lot less compared to last year.

10/22/20, 6:01 PM

Definitely.. my gf and I have been awaiting your reply. We can go this Sat.

See you Saturday

Cant wait. I will let you k ow by Friday nite if anything changes. Thank you again!

Looking forward to seeing you again

10/23/20, 6:15 PM

Hi. Abbie

I am confirming our meetup tomorrow. I should be there by $1\mbox{pm}.$

Yes and are you set with directions?

10/23/20, 9:36 PM

Yes. I still have it from last year.



Larger Pawpaw Fruits in August

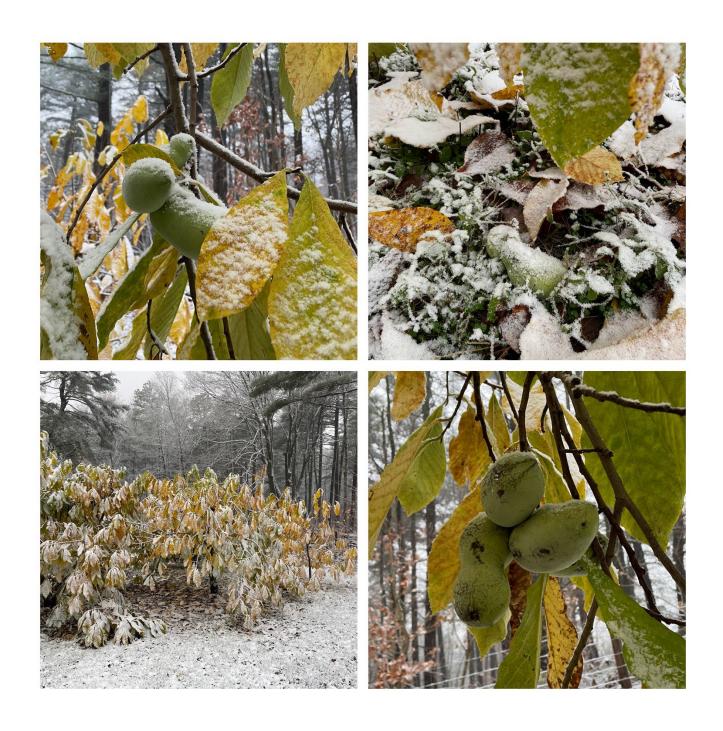


Including Self-Portrait of a Happy Gardener

Pawpaw Fruits Tolerate Temperature Dips into the Mid-20s. This fruit continued to ripen after the snowfall on October 30^{th} , 2020.



More Late October Splendor



In 2022 I am blessed with a bountiful crop beginning to ripen and long list of appreciative customers. Hopefully, you will become excited about edible landscaping and consider

planting pawpaw trees at your home. Consider becoming the next Pawpaw Queen wearing a leaf and fruit crown.

