

WBPANS Field Day

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Many local fields had some of the best bloom producers had ever seen, but this took place about two weeks earlier than normal. Bees seemed were more interested in apple blossoms and other fruit blossoms at the same time and didn't do their job in the blueberry fields until toward the end of blossom time, resulting in much lower pollination rates and crop yields.

The kick-off for the 8th Annual Wild Blueberry Festival was held on August 17th at the Marigold Centre in Truro. Despite a burst of rain, spirits weren't dampened and the program,

including live entertainment, a pie eating contest and Little Moe's Paws For Fun dog agility show continued as planned.

The Wild Blueberry Mascot has been sited at festival events, jumping for joy in the much needed sunshine, at the recent Harvest 4 Hunger Incredibly Picnic.

Nova Scotia is the largest processor of wild blueberries in the world and is the second largest producer on earth (2nd only to Maine). As Nova Scotia's provincial berry the wild blueberry is also renowned for its health benefits having the highest levels of antioxidants of all fruits and vegetables.



Dave Sangster (right), Executive Director of WBPANS, gets in line for the delicious wild blueberry shortcake.



Green Diamond's John Deere had an assortment of equipment on display from their Lower Onslow location.



Doug Bragg Enterprises had a large display set up at the Wild Blueberry Field Day.



Blue Max manufacturers a 54" Flail Mower, and 40 and 48 inch blueberry harvesters which can fill 2 to 3 boxes at a time. Blue Max equipment is available at the Tractor Dome, Milford Station.



JR Tardiff had an interesting piece of blueberry field equipment on display at the Wild Blueberry Producers Field Day in Debert.



A blueberry harvester that does not require a tractor! Acadian Machine Works' self-propelled, walk-behind 5.5 horsepower harvester can harvest anywhere from one to two acres per day.



Kubota tractors were on display thanks to Central Equipment Inc, Lower Truro. Kubota Canada offers a full line of tractors. From the home owner friendly BX series all the way up to the powerful M Series Ag tractor.

Blueberry Producers Support Rennie's Volunteer Efforts in Japan



Colin Rennie shows WBPANS President, Peter Van Dyk some of the devastation he encountered when he returned to Japan following the tsunami.

By Linda Harrington

Colin Rennie, who was born in Bass River, went to work in Japan for a 5 year term right out of High School. He says he enjoyed it so much he returned for another five years and is now fluent in the Japanese language. He was home in Canada when the tsunami hit the north east region of Japan on March 11th, 2011. When he saw the extent of the massive devastation, he knew he had to go back and try to help out as soon as possible.

Immediately after the tsunami, there were too many people and not enough resources, so his initial application to volunteer was rejected. He began fund raising, optimistic he would soon be heading for Japan. His application was finally approved and he was off to Japan in July, 2011.

On Colin's website he describes his reasons for wanting to volunteer in Japan, paying special tribute to his grandfather Guy Faulkner who passed away in 2011. "This trip is dedicated to him, because he did a lot for me and I want to do it, to do something good in his

name," says an emotional Rennie as he stands next to his grandparent's grave in Bass River.

The Wild Blueberry Producers Association of Nova Scotia (WBPANS) and the Wild Blueberry Association of North America (WBANA) have always had a good working relationship with Japan, with several Japanese delegations coming to tour wild blueberry production in recent years. The Associations offered to sponsor Colin's travel in support of his volunteer work in Japan. As a thank you for their support, Colin says he often wears a t-shirt with the wild blueberry logo wherever he goes and he regularly promotes the benefits of wild blueberries. He has a link to the Japanese Wild Blueberry website on his Facebook page and says he has been on National news three times, along with the BBC and CNN, always wearing his wild blueberry shirt. Colin represented WBANA at two trade shows in Tokyo and one in Shanghai, as well.

"The funds from WBPANS and WBANA made a huge difference in my ability to return to Japan and help with the clean-up," says Colin. "I can't thank them enough."

Colin was at the WBPANS field day in Debert on July 21st and was happy to share his experiences. He showed pictures of the tsunami's devastation to WBPANS President Peter van Dyke, saying "There is now the equivalent of more than 100 years' worth of garbage to deal with, it is just unreal what it looked like."

Colin is Project Manager for the MUD Project, which is working independently with volunteer organizations in tsunami devastated areas of Miyagi and Iwate Prefectures, Japan. They work clearing mud and rubble, retrieving personal

items from damaged houses, helping with translation and other support services.

"In the beginning the houses were sitting on rotting fish which wasn't very pleasant but the fish have now decomposed, so it is a bit easier. Still lots of hard work, much of it with shovels, but it all has to be done before the carpenters can begin to rebuild," he says.

Colin returned to Japan on July 31st but can only remain there for 3 months unless his work visa is renewed. He hopes to get another long term contract volunteering with the

clean-up efforts. In the meantime he is appealing to companies and organizations for official sponsorship of the MUD Project. "I need funds to help me cover expenses as I volunteer in villages, towns and cities throughout north-eastern Japan. The funds will help buy supplies, equipment, and cover transportation and communications expenses."

For more information on Colin's MUD Project or to make a donation visit www.mudproject.com, he can also be reached via email at themudproject@gmail.com.



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- 3) Roadside Mower** - Single head, side mount mower 5-foot head. There are 25 units in operation throughout Nova Scotia. Units are used in bush cutting operations and roadside mowing in the State of Maine.
- 4) Excavator Mower** - Single head, boom mount mower has 5-foot head. Head is mounted to the excavator boom using existing bucket mounting pins enabling mower head to mow contour of the ditches.
- 5) Highway Median Mower** - BMM-5 median mower is a combination of 2 mid-mount 5-foot side mowers mounted on left and right sides of 90 HP tractor unit and 2 five-foot heads with 1 four-foot head mounted under a tow frame with a total cut path of 21'6". All heads are independently raised and lowered.
- 6) DBE Electronics** - We offer contract electronics manufacturing with an emphasis on product quality and on time delivery. Manufacturing capabilities include electronic assembly, printed circuit boards and cable assemblies for prototype to production run quantities. No quantity is too large or too small.
- 7) Cranberry Harvester** - This is the latest addition of Doug Bragg Enterprises's lineup of custom manufactured products. This machine is intended for dry picking cranberries with as little waste as possible and with virtually no damage to the bog. The ground pressure with the recommended setup is less than a foot print of an adult of average size.