

# My Internship at Ron Britt and Associates

Yakima, WA

June –July 2012

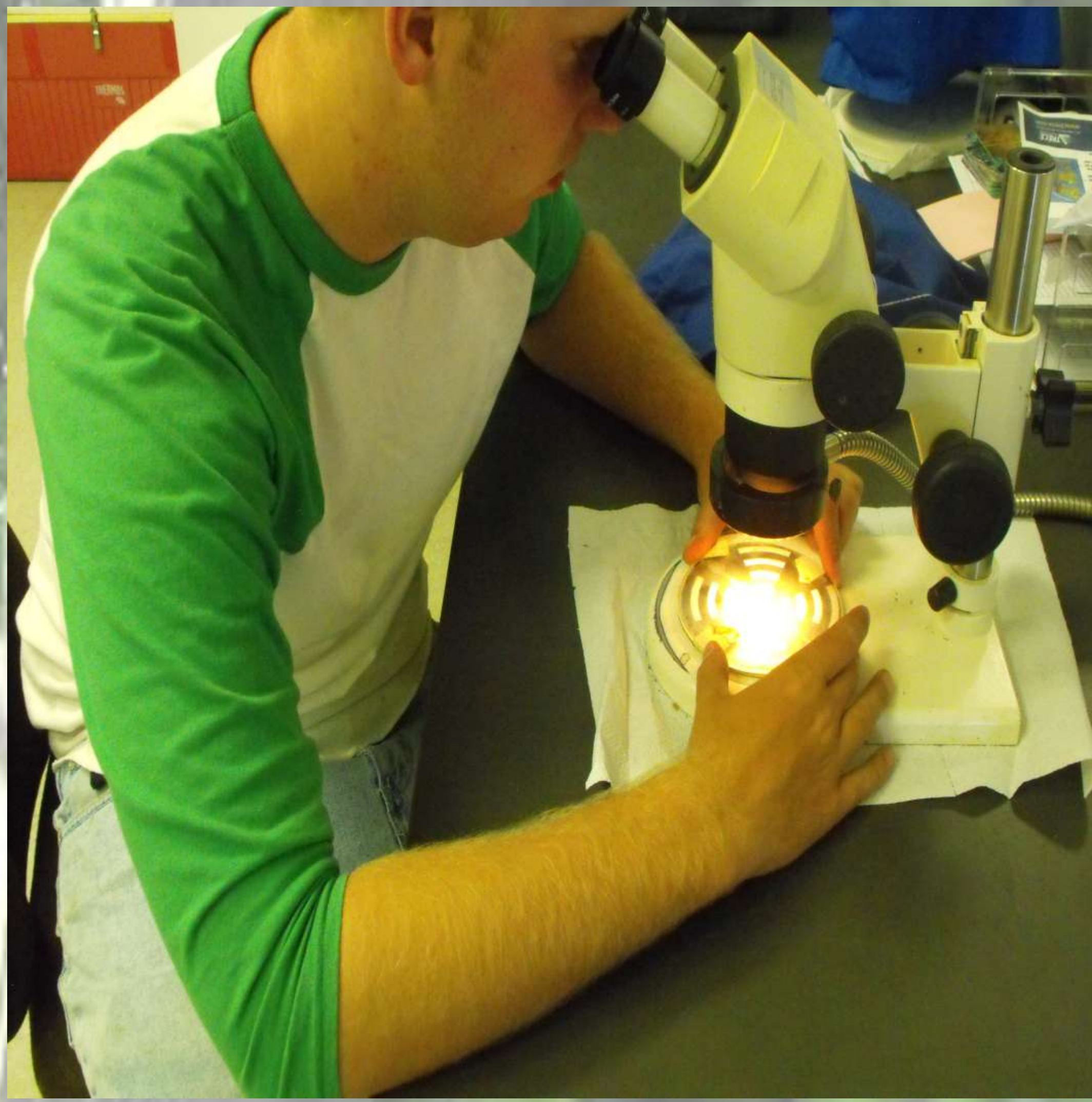
Matt Klaus

## Overview

Ron Britt and Associates is an agricultural research and consulting company located in Yakima, WA. During my time there I worked with 3 main crops; apples, pears, and hops. The goal of this company is to take an integrated pest management strategy to orchard systems. They feel this ultimately will reduce unnecessary sprays and cost the grower less money. My job was to conduct the monitoring part of an IPM program for these orchard systems.

## Experience

By working for this company I gained a lot of useful knowledge on how to identify key pests in orchard systems. I've learned how to organize an IPM strategy with other workers to reach a common goal. I feel like many of the skills I have picked up here could potentially help towards a master's degree in entomology or help me get a career in agricultural entomology.



One of my co workers using a microscope to identify mites and mite eggs left from the mite brusher



Here I'm using the mite brusher to brush apple leaves picked from the field; these leaves may contain eggs and mites



A codling moth trap that I examine every week for moth counts

## Responsibilities

- manage a trap route in Wapato
- Scout various orchards for insect presence
- Evaluate tests in orchards done with scale, codling moth, and mildew



Hop leaves being examined with hand lenses