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Subject: SWGGA May 2017 Trellis Wire
Date: May 11, 2017, 5:26:44 PM
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The Newsletter of the Sierra Wine and Grape Growers

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May 2017



The Trellis Wire

Welcome to the Sierra Wine and Grape Growers Association

Here in our monthly newsletter, we keep our members up to date on SWGGA activity, and provide links to our [website](#), where you can read more.

Next Meeting Thursday May 18, 7 pm

The SWGGA May meeting will feature a tour and tasting at Gray Pine Winery. Many of you have noticed that Gray Pine wines are showing up rather prominently in the finest restaurants in Grass Valley and Nevada City. Guy Lauterbach will offer a tour of his vineyards and winery, followed by an opportunity to learn more about his winemaking efforts.

As is customary for our visits to commercial wineries, we ask that you do not bring a bottle of wine to share.

**The Vineyards and winery are located at:
19396 Branding Iron Rd
Penn Valley, CA 95946**

As parking may be at a premium, car pool if you can.

From the Editor

Hi, I'm Grace Zimmerman, your Webmaster and now editor of the newsletter. I will not be able to fill Dan Carrick's shoes (for one thing, they are literally big) but I will do my best to keep the newsletter going.

I will rely on you, my volunteer army of citizen journalists, to keep me supplied with ideas, links, articles, anything you want to send me. Contact me at sierragrapegrowers@gmail.com.

Thank you

State Fair Results

SWGGA members had another outstanding year at the California State Fair. 10 members won 27 medals. Congratulations to our winners Bill Betts, Dave Blitstein, Peter Callahan, Dan Carrick, Dave Elliot, John Gerahty, Gary Glaze, Al Rickman, Debbie Rickman and Paul Ver Wey. Double congratulations to John, who won a Double Gold / Best of Class for his 2012 Rhône Blend. Hopefully, we will get a chance to bid on some of these wines at the annual picnic's silent auction.

A list of all the medals won follows. If we missed you, let us know and accept our apology

| California State Fair - 2017 | | | | |
|------------------------------|---------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------|
| SWGGA Member Results | | | | |
| Winemaker | Vintage | Varietal | Award | Note |
| Bill Betts | | | | |
| | 2014 | Barbera | Gold | |
| | 2015 | Petite Sirah | Silver | |
| | 2014 | Petite Sirah | Silver | |
| | 2014 | Red Blend | Bronze | |
| David Blitstein | | | | |
| | 2016 | Sauvignon Blanc | Silver | |
| | 2014 | Zinfandel | Double Gold | |
| | 2016 | Tempranillo | Silver | |
| | 2016 | Peite Sirah | Silver | |
| Peter Callaham | | | | |
| | 2016 | Rkatsiteli | Bronze | Other Red |
| Dan Carrick | | | | |
| | 2015 | Sparkling Syrah | Silver | |
| | 2013 | Syrah | Bronze | |
| | 2012 | Petite Sirah | Bronze | |
| | 2014 | Red Blend | Silver | |
| Dave Elliott | | | | |
| | 2016 | Viognier | Bronze | |
| | 2016 | Albarino | Double Gold | |
| | 2016 | Riesling | Silver | |
| | 2014 | Syrah | Silver | |
| John Gerahty | | | | |
| | 2012 | Grenache/Syrah/Viognier | Double Gold / Best of Class | Rhone Blend |
| | 2014 | Sangiovese | Silver | |
| Gary Glaze | | | | |
| | 2014 | Tempranillo | Bronze | |
| | 2014 | Graciano | Silver | |
| | 2014 | Graciano/Tempranillo | Silver | Red Blend |
| | 2014 | Tempranillo/Graciano | Silver | Red Blend |
| | 2014 | Malbec | Bronze | |
| Al Rickman | | | | |
| | 2012 | Bordeaux Blend | Silver | |
| Debbie Rickman | | | | |
| | 2015 | Plum Wine | Double Gold | |
| Paul Ver Wey | | | | |
| | 2015 | Red Blend | Silver | |

Spring in the Vineyard

By Diane Houston

As a new full time resident, this was my first year experiencing all four seasons here in Nevada County and in the vineyard. I was born and raised in the mid-west, but spent the

past 30 years in So. Ca, so have been thrilled to get back to the rhythm of real seasons. Before moving here permanently, I had been here on random occasions throughout the year and always took pictures, which, thanks to date stamps, have proved to be an interesting lesson in the effects of weather. Along with the joy of seeing the vineyard (and everything else in the garden), unfold from a long rainy winter, I was fascinated to discover the difference in the timing of bud break between varieties and from one year to the next.

Below are pictures of Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon taken within a couple days of each other in different years (2016 & 2017). The Merlot was about 2 weeks ahead of the Cab both years and 2017 seems to be about 2 weeks later than 2016. If it weren't for our min heat spell this week, it would have been even later.

For all you seasoned growers, this is probably old hat to you! I've learned a lot, but also now have more questions than ever...How will all this rain and later bud break affect the rest of the season, harvest timing, etc. So much more to learn!



Cabernet April 2017



Merlot April 2017



Merlot April 2016



Cabernet April 2016



SWGGA shirts available at monthly meetings

Left: Ladies Denim shirt has no pocket and comes in short or long sleeve, a variety of sizes, 100% cotton and preshrunk. \$35.00 ea.

Right: Men's Denim shirt has a pocket, available in short or long sleeve, various sizes, 100% cotton and preshrunk. \$35.00 ea.

We also have hats and aprons.

The Outreach Coordinator, Dave Blitstein, will have some samples on display and for sale at the monthly meetings. The current inventory is somewhat limited in sizes but he can get you what you need. Get in touch with Dave if you want to place an order or have questions: dbeffx@aol.com.



We now has a good stock of glasses and they are on display at our monthly meetings. They are handsome and very sturdy. \$3 each

Check out our Commercial Members

Besemer Cellars

Clavey Vineyards

Coufos Cellars

Double Oak Vineyard and Winery

Gray Pine Vineyard and Winery

Lucero Vineyard and Winery

Solune Winegrowers

Sierra Moonshine

This is a communication from the Sierra Wine and Grape Growers, a group to which you belong

Our mailing address is:

Sierra Wine and Grape Growers Association
PO Box 1264
Grass Valley, CA 95945

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