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The Newsletter of the Sierra Wine and Grape Growers

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June 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

Subject: Food and Wine Pairings

Date and Time: Date, 7 pm

Location: Ponderosa Hall, Fairgrounds

When a chef goes out to dinner, which do they select first, the food or the wine?

This meeting Rod Byers, our well know wine expert and Certified Wine Educator, will join us at our next meeting where he will discuss the often-puzzling questions surrounding pairing wine and food. No small part of the problem is the dizzying array of advice out there, some of it in complete contradiction to itself. Rod will examine a few current theories as well as a look at history to see how we've gotten to where we are.

Finally he will guide us through a wine and food tasting exercise that will demystify the process and allow each of us to become our own best expert.

Members are asked to bring 4 wine glasses to this event, and it would be helpful to have a few volunteers to set up plates and pour wine.



Last Meeting

The last meeting was at Gray Pine Winery.

Go to our [website](#) to read a description and see some photos,

Member Profile: Meet the Clarabuts

Volunteering in 2013 to help to pick and crush for his cousin's wine making venture gave Tony the grape growing bug and he soon had fenced in a quarter acre, set up irrigation and planted 160 Sauvignon Blanc, Zinfandel and Barbera vines. With the help of his cousin Peter Willcox and his mentor Alan Smith, both SWGGA members, the Clarabut's vineyard was well on its way.

Tony, retired from a firefighting career with CDF and a stint as Grass Valley's fire chief, and Susan, a retired school administrator, raised their two children on their 10 acres off of Wolf Road in South Nevada County. Once the kids were grown and retirement had actually sunk in, Tony needed a new project. A small

vineyard fit the bill. They joined SWGGA in 2015 and shortly after, Tony and Peter signed up for the Sierra College class, 'Establishing a Home Vineyard', with Ron Morris of Secret Ravine Vineyard. It worked so well for Tony that he took another Sierra College class with Ron, this one a pruning class. 'Vines to Wines' by Jeff Cox continues to be a very helpful book. Talks with representatives from Nevada and Placer County Ag Departments helped when the inevitable critters started chewing on the vines.

Most important though has been the education, mentoring and support that has come through SWGGA. Alan Smith generously gives of his time and knowledge, taking Tony under his wing and checking in frequently re the health of the new starts, what to do about bugs and birds and whether those healthy looking young vines really do have to be pruned back. Tony Mello gave him a brilliant idea for how to apply sulfur. Meeting and talking with other SWGGA members continues to be incredibly supportive and educational. This isn't really retirement, it's just a new chapter...



Recap of Board Meeting

From the President:

The minutes of the monthly Board of Directors meetings will be posted on our website as soon as we resolve some technical issues. At the April meeting, the Board decided to circulate a prompt recap of future meetings, in addition to the minutes, which are posted the following month after board approval. This is the recap of our May 25th meeting.

The Treasurer, Lloyd Tosse, reported \$5784 in the bank, of which \$3093 is in the scholarship fund. A scholarship of \$2000 dollars will shortly be awarded Amanda Townsend

Upon the recommendation of the Social Coordinator, Bob Tonnie, the Board approved holding the picnic at the Sierra Knolls winery. Details will be forthcoming.

The Outreach Coordinator, David Blitstein, has acquired hats, aprons and signs with our logo, for sale to members. They will be available at future meetings or you can contact Dave for further information. [LINK](#)

The Membership Coordinator, Jim Garrett, reported that we have 56 paid members and two complimentary members. He and Lloyd have resolved a membership issue which arose from some members sending their renewals to Lloyd instead of to Jim as directed. About 15 members have not renewed, including some longtime members. Two directors volunteered to follow up with telephone calls. If you have not renewed, please do so immediately or you will stop getting SWGGA communications, such as the picnic invitation.

The Program Coordinator, Dave Elliot, reported that at the next meeting, Rod Byers will host a program on the art and science of pairing food and wine. Because the appetizers served at recent general meetings have been well received, the Board voted to budget up to \$100 for appetizers at future meetings at the discretion of the Program and Social coordinators.

The Communications Coordinator, Grace Zimmerman, is resolving some of the difficulties people have had in opening documents on our website caused by recent changes in how Dropbox operates. If you have encountered such problems, try visiting our website again.

If you find this recap helpful, please let me know by clicking on my name and sending me a message

[Bernie Zimmerman](#)

Wine in the News
Eleven of the world's most extreme [vineyards](#).

SWGGA Swag available at monthly meetings

Shirts, hats, glasses and aprons are available for order.

The Outreach Coordinator, David Blitstein handles sales. Get in touch with David if you want to place an order or have questions: dbeffx@aol.com.

To view photos, click [here](#),

Check out our Commercial Members

[Besemer Cellars](#)

[Clavey Vineyards](#)

[Coufos Cellars](#)

[Double Oak Vineyard and Winery](#)

[Gray Pine Vineyard and Winery](#)

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