

# Trellis Wire

## The Monthly Newsletter of the Sierra Wine & Grape Growers Association

### New Editor in Town

Starting this month you will notice that there is a slightly new format to the Trellis Wire. That's because Dan Carrick has taken over the task of producing this newsletter from Jim Garrett who has done an outstanding job for several years.

As the newsletter editor it's my job to keep members up to date and to insert news items and buy/sell requests into the newsletter. Please contact me at: [carrick1119@gmail.com](mailto:carrick1119@gmail.com)

January 2016



[www.sierragrap growers.org](http://www.sierragrap growers.org)

### Wine and Food Pairing at the January 21 Meeting

The January meeting will feature the elements and techniques of wine and food pairing. Members **Bob Tonnies** and **Donna Alare**, retired restaurateurs, will prepare selected foods to compliment award winning wines from some of our wine makers. You may remember that Bob and Donna prepared some plates for the wines that Dave Luce brought to our November meeting which proved to be very popular.

A special thanks to the members that are donating their award winning wines for pairing:

**Bill Betts**, Barbera

**Guy Lauterbach**, Bordeaux Blend

**Dan Kruger**, Red Blend

**Tony Mello**, Sauvignon Blanc

**Bob Hillsman**, Chardonnay

7:00 PM Ponderosa Hall, Gate 2, Fairgrounds

**Please remember to bring your own tasting glasses.**

### Calendar

**January 21, 2016**

**Wine Pairings- Bob  
Tonnies & Donna  
Alare**

**January 28, 2016**

**BOD Meeting**

**February 18, 2016**

**TBA**

**February 25, 2016**

**BOD Meeting**

**March 17, 2016**

**TBA**

**March 24, 2016**

**BOD Meeting**

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## Just a Friendly Reminder

Earlier this month all Active SWGGA Members were emailed a 2016 Dues Statement and a copy of the Membership Application with current account data.

Be sure to check the data on the application form, and let me know if there are any changes, additions or deletions to be made, particularly for phone numbers and email addresses.

And, if you haven't checked your entry on the Members List on the new website, please do so. You will notice that the street address has been removed. This action was authorized by the Board of Directors for security reasons. The website is incorporating a number of new security measure to reduce the possibility of hacking.

Please send your dues payment to the address on the statement, or bring a check to the next meeting. Thanks.

Jim Garrett\Membership Coordinator  
jim@relateddata.com

## Welcome New Members

We're happy to report the addition of two new memberships as we begin 2016.

**Tony** and **Susan Clarabut** of Grass Valley are new vineyard owners who in 2015 planted a quarter acre of vines. We're sure they will have a few questions in the next few months.

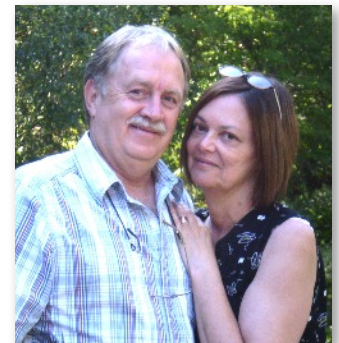
**Mary McClain** of Grass Valley is our newest member with an interest in all things wine.

## Member Spotlight

*(Editor's note: I will attempt to have a member highlight each issue. If you wish to be immortalized in this august publication, let me know. Either that, or I will ask **you**...)*

Bob and Donna have been together since 1997 and met when he was he was doing kitchen design and remodels and Donna needed a new kitchen.

Kitchens were important to both of them as Donna's food passion goes back to growing up in an Italian neighborhood in Massachusetts and Bob came from a German meat packing family in Illinois which created some incredible smoked hams and sausages.



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Donna took her love of food further and graduated from the California Culinary Academy and has worked in restaurants in San Francisco, Palm Springs and Richmond, VA. Her passion for food is only enhanced by pairings with wine.

In 2009 they came to Grass Valley and purchased two commercial buildings and then used one to start Gold Rush Burgers & BBQ. In 2014 they decided that retirement was in their future and opted to lease the space to free up time for family and travel. They are grandparents and enjoy time with their granddaughter.

Like a lot of SWGGA members they were introduced to the group by members, in this case John Lyon and Linda Foreman. They are now into their second vintage and John serves as their wine coach. As to the long range plans for wine making, Bob says: "yes, we're hooked".

When asked about their association with SWGGA and what it has meant to them they had this reply: "We have met so many nice people with the common interest of wine. We enjoy pairing food with wine and having people over for dinner. Exposure to grape growers and wine makers in this region has really expanded our knowledge, and a new appreciation of the work that goes into a bottle of wine. We have now gone through the process of picking grapes, anxiously waiting, and soon bottling our own wine. Now, we're trying to get creative with a new label design".

The next time you see them don't hesitate to say hello.

## **From the President**

The new year brings you a new president, so let me begin the year by thanking you for the honor of electing me to serve as president of an organization of which I have been a member for over 30 years. Writing that caused me to reflect on how growing grapes and making wine have changed over those years. When I joined in 1982 or 83, obviously after a few glasses of wine since I can't remember when, there was one commercial winery in the area, the Nevada City Winery, with another one forming as winemaker Tony Norskog left them to form the Nevada County Wine Guild. The number of commercial vineyards could probably be counted on one's fingers, and grapes consisted largely of Chardonnay, Sauvignon Blanc, Cabernet Sauvignon and Zinfandel. This new year finds viticulture and viniculture as one of the leading industries in the county. Liquid gold you might say. We have about 15 commercial wineries and hundreds of acres planted in over 30 varieties of grapes.



What about us hobbyists? In the 80's grapes were readily obtainable, largely because commercial demand was slack. And there were not that many home winemakers. I was thrilled in 1985 when I won my first ribbon at the county fair for my '83 Sauvignon Blanc; not so thrilled what I

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learned that I was the only entrant in the class. This all changed after 1987, when the region received the Sierra Foothills appellation. I made very little wine in the 1990's, largely because grapes were hard to come by, everything seemingly having been committed to commercial wineries, of which there were by then about a half a dozen in the county. Finally, in 1995, I planted my own small vineyard in You Bet which, as those of you who have seen it know, has its problems. Among them, bud burst at 3000' begins in late March; snows and frosts can persist to late May. The only tip on growing grapes you'll get from me is to get your tips from someone else.

These days, I find that, at least for reds, I can pretty much get whatever grapes I want locally. And the number and quality of the winemakers has increased markedly, as you can tell from the many superb, award-winning wines you have tasted at our monthly meetings. So the next time you are near wine, lift a glass to the Sierra Wine & Grape Growers Association and join me in helping it continue to thrive.

*Bernie Zimmerman*

### **For Sale/Wanted**

For Sale: Six used neutral oak barrels. \$70.00 ea. Well cared for. Washed, sanitized and ready for your wine. Contact Guy Lauterbach [rguyl@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rguyl@sbcglobal.net) or 530-432 2907

# Sierra Wine & Grape Growers Association

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## SWGGA Shirts Will be Available at Monthly Meetings

Tony Mello, Outreach Coordinator, will have a few shirts 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 Tony if you want to place an order or have questions: [tonymello49@gmail.com](mailto:tonymello49@gmail.com)



Ladies Denim shirt has no pocket and comes in short or long sleeve, a variety of sizes, 100% cotton and preshrunk.

\$35.00 ea.



Men's Denim shirt has a pocket, available in short or long sleeve, a variety of sizes, 100% cotton and preshrunk.

\$35.00 ea.

## SWGGA Wine Glasses Are Again Available

Tony now has a good stock of the glasses and they will be on display at our monthly meetings.

\$3.00 ea.



### Commercial Members

**Besemer Cellars**

**Clavey Vineyards**

**Coufos Cellars**

**Double Oak Vineyard & Winery**

**Gray Pine Winery**

**Lucero Vineyard & Winery**

**Solune Winegrowers**

### Please support our Commercial SWGGA Wineries

Our commercial members support us with their generosity of their time and knowledge and we would like to support them as well.

Buy some wine and ensure your friends do the same!

# Sierra Wine & Grape Growers Association

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## SWGGA Notices and Information

### SWGGA Officers and Board Members

President: Bernie Zimmerman  
bz@youbetvin.com 530-274-7118

Vice President: Dan Carrick  
carrick1119@gmail.com 775-853-4074

Secretary: Nancy Machado  
nrmachado1@gmail.com 530-432-0708

Treasurer: Lloyd Tosse  
lloyd@tosse.com 530-274-2856

Membership Coordinator: Jim Garrett  
jim@relateddata.com 530-346-2403

Education Coordinator : Dave Elliott  
djelliott@skydancesranch.com 916-201-2403

Social Coordinator: Kate Garrett  
kategarrett44@gmail.com 530-346-2403

Outreach Coordinator: Tony Mello  
tonymello49@gmail.com 530-559-4479

At Large Member: Jim Partidos  
xflatlanders@yahoo.com 530-292-3041

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Web Master: Grace Zimmerman  
gracesuarez@me.com 530-274-7118

Trellis Wire Editor: Dan Carrick  
carrick1119@gmail.com 775-853-4074

### Please Note:

Unless specified otherwise, Member Meetings are held on the **Third Thursday** of the month at:

**Ponderosa Hall**

**Gate 2**

**Nevada County Fairgrounds**

**7:00 PM**

Board of Director Meetings: All members are welcome to attend the BOD meetings. If you wish to attend, please inform one of the officers or directors at least two days prior to a meeting so the host can prepare for the number of attendees as there is usually a dinner prior to the meeting.

Check your profile on the web site to see if the data is correct. Go to the SWGGA site at: **sierragrapegrowers.org**. If a change is needed contact Grace Zimmerman as she can make corrections.  
gracesuarez@me.com

If your spouse or significant other wants to be included on the email list, please send a request with the details to Membership Coordinator Jim Garrett: Jim@relateddata.com

### Mailing Address:

SWGGA  
P. O. Box 1264  
Grass Valley, CA 95945

### Speaker Topics:

Please don't hesitate to communicate your ideas on what subjects or speakers that you feel SWGGA needs to cover. Your comments are welcome.

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