

Trellis Wire

The Monthly Newsletter of the
Sierra Wine & Grape Growers Association



March Meeting

Many thanks to **Rod Byers** for taking us through the basics of blending wines and to **Dave Elliott** and **Jim Garrett** for generously supplying the wines to be blended. Rod was a trove of information and had some amusing stories of blending efforts when he was affiliated with Nevada City Winery.

Rod pointed out that most wines are blends even if it says 100% Zinfandel because that Zin may have 5 different vineyards from all over the state. Most blending is done to fill “holes” in the finished wine. Does it need more tannin, more acid, more fruit? What is the vision that the wine maker has in his or her head? How many wines do you have to work with and do they all need to be used this vintage year? A key concept: This blend is done today, but what will it taste like two years from now?

It was an informative and thought provoking evening.

April 2016



www.sierragrapegrowers.org

April 21, 2016

Can These Vines be saved

April 28, 2016

BOD Meeting

May 19, 2016

TBD Meeting subject

May 26, 2016

BOD Meeting

July 17, 2016

Annual Picnic

Dec. 15, 2016

Holiday Party

April 18, Meeting

Can These Vines be Saved?

After years of amateur pruning, home grown vineyards can become quite randomly shaped, if not completely unruly and have productivity challenges. Thursday's presentation will be an example of before and after pruning of a home vineyard by a professional with the emphasis on enhancing future fruit quality and productivity while maintaining this year's production. Tony Tapia, the manager of Yuba River Vineyards takes us through professional pruning techniques, which was video taped. This program should provide good insight into pruning and canopy management for optimum quality.



(not a recommended technique)

Save The Date, Annual Picnic

We have set the date of the picnic for **Sunday, July 17**, starting at 5:00 PM and ending at 9:00 PM. We are trying something new this year and the event will be held at the Pilot Peak Winery in Penn Valley. What is of interest is that their venue provides a spacious environment with plenty of shade, they have a sound system, nice tables and chairs and in general an upgraded experience from previous annual picnics.

The picnic will be catered by members **Bob Tonnies** and **Donna Alarie** and they have promised a culinary delight. Don't miss this!

Welcome New & Returning Members

Steve and Leslie Schoradt, Penn Valley, Suncrest Vineyards

Two commercial acres of Syrah, Cab Franc, Sauvignon Blanc, some Chardonnay and Zinfandel.

Steve and Deanna Maraglia, Grass valley, Maraglia Vineyards

A hobby vineyard: Zinfandel, Cab Sauvignon, Syrah and Sangiovese.

Wilfried Wietstock, Grass Valley, hobby, winemaker

Member Spotlight

*Editors note: This is where we spotlight members so that we can all get to know one another. If you are interested in being spotlighted let me know. Or, I will ask **you!***

David & Marilyn Blitstein

Growing up in southern California it was inevitable that David would end up, “In the Business,” and started his Hollywood career as an apprentice prop maker for Universal Studios. As time and career advanced he achieved every boy’s dream job of getting to blow stuff up, and get paid for it!

Well it wasn’t really that simple but David’s business was as a Special Effects Coordinator which required him to own two semi-trailers of equipment , have a crew and be prepared to make it snow, rain, lightning, have fires and explosions and all at the whim of the director. Along the way he racked up numerous screen credits for movies that you will remember, is listed on the IMBd and received an Emmy for the TV movie *War and Remembrance*. David said, “...it was exciting, stressful, yet very rewarding.” David also said, “...I thought making wine would be much easier, I was wrong!”

When he and Marilyn were working on the movie *Phenomenon* in 1995 they discovered our area and decided that this is the place that they wanted to retire to. In 2002 they saw their current 10 acre property for sale across the road from Bear River Vineyard and thought it would be fun for them to also have a vineyard. In 2009 they moved here, built a house and started on the vineyard project.



Soon after moving here they visited Solune Winegrowers and realized that Jacques Mercier would be the perfect vineyard consultant. Jacques visited the site, got them rolling and Sunshine Valley Vineyard was born. They started planting in 2011 and currently have 600 Petite Sirah, 450 Tempranillo and 200 Sauvignon Blanc vines and in May this year they will plant an additional 400 Albariño vines. They plan to sell the grapes to wineries in the area.

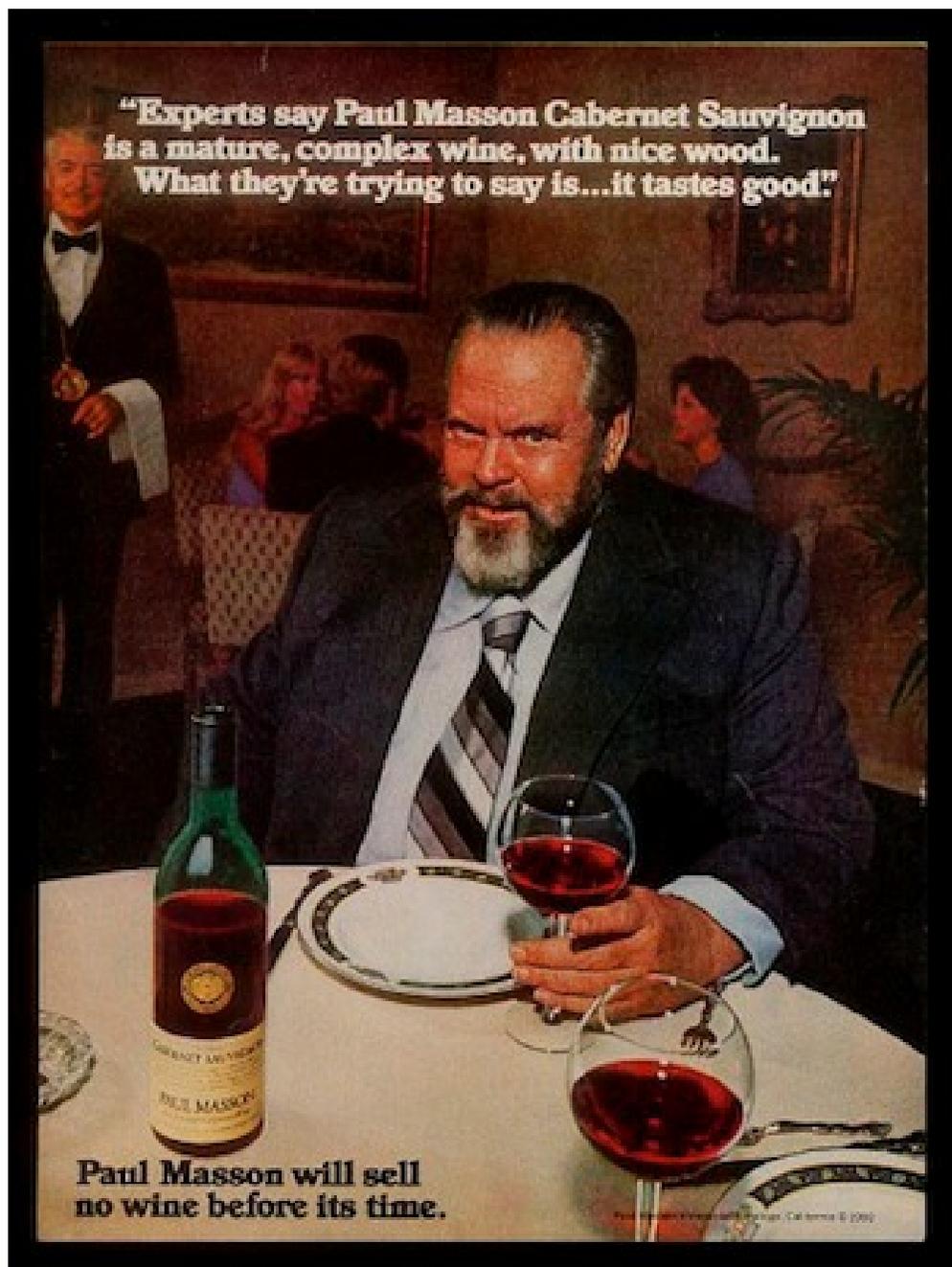
David and Marilyn hadn’t previously made wine but growing the grapes spurred them into becoming home wine makers who at this time don’t see themselves becoming a commercial winery, but feel they need to understand the process to better serve the folks that they will be selling to. Also, it’s a fun hobby and they get wine for their own consumption.

After purchasing the property they did some research and were happy to find that there was a grape growers association in the area. Later they joined SWGGA and David said, "When we started going to the SWGGA meetings it was a little overwhelming, the amount of information the members knew, and then I knew that we had joined the best organization in the area. I love talking to all the members, especially senior members at the meetings; they are a wealth of information."

The next time you see David and Marilyn at a meeting, say hello!

Memory Lane

For people of a certain age...



Sierra Wine & Grape Growers Association

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



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 Logo 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

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 530-218-6633

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

@@@@@@@@

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.
