



TRELLIS WIRE

Monthly News Letter of the Sierra Wine & Grape Growers Association

July 2020

Next Meeting:

July 16, 2020

Zoom Meeting: Bottling 101 with the Hilsmans.

You'll find more details on the next page.

Please hang in there... Unfortunately, we continue to be locked out of Ponderosa Hall, and we can't safely gather for health reasons anywhere else for the foreseeable future. The SWGGA Board of Directors is trying to keep us all in touch with Zoom Meetings and a members-only wine competition in August.

Members in the News

Bernie Zimmerman has published a book, "Ghost Towns of Nevada County", which is available as a free download from Apple Books or as a PDF from the publisher You Bet Press at <http://www.youbetpress.com>. The book explains how Gold Rush towns got their names, histories of 18 county ghost towns, two maps and 31 photographs.

Trellis Wire Note:

We are changing the format of the Trellis Wire so it can be converted to PDF and archived on the SWGGA website. Hope you like it.

Calendar

July 16, 2020

ZOOM meeting. Bottling 101 with the Hilsmans

July 23, 2020

BOD Meeting

August 20, 2020

General Meeting - TBD

August 27 2020

BOD Meeting

September 17, 2020

General Meeting - TBD

September 24, 2020

BOD Meeting

October 15, 2020

General Meeting - TBD

October 22, 2020

BOD Meeting

Home Wine Competition

We have had an amazing interest in the SWGGA Home Wine Competition in lieu of the county fair. To date, we have received 16 confirmations for participation with over 48 wines to be entered. Rod Byers will be leading this competition and has already secured judges, with the judging planned for **August 6th**. Watch your emails for entry registration, wine delivery and other matters. An Awards Ceremony is still in the planning stage. This should be fun. Contact Jim Garrett at jim@relateddata.com

July Meeting

Bottling 101 with the Hilsmans

Mark your calendars for an educational meeting on bottling. Bob and Ginny Hilsman may have sold their vineyard and are no longer Double Oak winery but, luckily for SWGGA members, they are willing to share their wine making expertise accrued over three decades. Our July SWGGA meeting will be Thursday, July 16 at 7 pm where we will hold a virtual “Bottling Do’s and Don’ts” on Zoom. (SWGGA members – watch for a Zoom invitation via email with information on how to log on.)

After 30+ years of harvests and wine making, multiple gold medals, and memories to last a lifetime, Bob and Ginny have moved to Alta Sierra and are no longer making the trek up to San Juan Ridge. They have graciously agreed to hold this presentation on bottling followed by a question and answer discussion. Don’t forget to check your email for the Zoom invitation and plan to join us on July 16.

June Zoom Meeting Recap

We had a Zoom meeting featuring Mark Henry from Montoliva featuring their Sierra Donna, Jack Starr for Sierra Starr featuring Phil's Selection Zinfandel, and Bryan Taylor from Mt Vernon featuring their 2018 Cabernet Franc. They all discussed the history of their wines, the blending, grape growing challenges and characteristics for the wines. 16 of our members joined the Zoom meeting.

Some of the pearls of wisdom they shared were: Pull the leaves on the east facing bunches but leave them on the west to protect the grapes.

Grass Valley area Zin is a mild body. Pick Zin grapes when 10% of the bunch is dimpled.

Western Nevada County has diverse climates, soils and elevations, which supports a variety of wine grapes.

Spray for mold/fungus now, cycling types to avoid resistance. Stop spraying for powdery mildew once the temperature hits 90*. Be sure you quit spraying well before harvest.

Fertilizer is recommended every other year, or when the weeds aren't growing, fertilizer is needed.

And most importantly, Vineyards are a great way to commune with nature and is therapy for the Covid 19 stress.

Red wines should be served at cellar temperature, 58-60*. You can freeze the wine for about 15 minutes in the summer to achieve ideal temperature.

David B. writes: I also wanted to give a shoutout to Tony Clarabut and Peter Wilcox for setting up and distributing the wines for the Zoom tasting meeting in June. It was very interesting to hear the winemakers talk about their wines and the process that they go through. If you missed it, try not to miss next time.

President's Recap of the Board Meeting

The June 25, 2020 meeting started at 5:02 pm with an established quorum. The minutes from May 14, 2020 were approved.

The Treasurer reported that we have \$5,917.97 in the bank with \$2,720.93 in the scholarship fund (the \$2,000 for this year's scholarship hasn't been dispersed yet) and \$3,197.04 in the general fund.

The Outreach Coordinator reported that the Union ran a full-page ad listing NJUHSD scholarship recipients last week so SWGGA got some good press, We're happy to introduce Logan Vanderhoof to the membership as SWGGA's 2019-20 scholarship recipient. One of our goals as the Scholarship Committee is to choose candidates who we hope will be returning to Nevada County to work in the wine industry or another science or agriculture-based vocation after their college graduation. We think we have a rather good chance of that with Logan. In addition to being our scholarship winner, Logan, a Nevada Union graduate, was also the recipient of a competitive six-month internship with Nevada Irrigation District as an introduction to a career in water and hydroelectric industries. Because his NID internship delays his college by six months, Logan will receive ½ of his scholarship upon starting college in January 2021 and the second ½ when he enrolls for the 2021-2022 school year. We are excited to support this young man as he starts on his path to a career and look forward to seeing him back in Nevada County.

Thanks to all of you who have donated to our scholarship fund over the last year, through direct donations, through donating wines for scholarship raffles and silent auctions, and through participating in raffles at our barbeques and holiday parties.

Recap (cont.)

Membership Coordinator's report: Jim reported one new member – a couple that moved from the Bay Area to Nevada City and heard about SWGGA from John Lyon at Sierra Moonshine. President David B. met with them, gave them a tour of his operation; they are happy to find local available grapes. Jim will be posting videos of past interviews on the website. Watch for them, they will be interesting. Copies of the Trellis Wire will also be on the website for future reference.

SWGGA Wine Competition

Due to the cancellation of the Nevada County Fair, discussion held on SWGGA holding our own (members only) wine competition. Jim Garrett spoke at length with Rod Byers and he has agreed to run the competition, find judges and coordinate the tasting. He would like the judging broken into two days with three judges each. He will also host an awards ceremony.

Dates discussed for an award ceremony (which Bernie and Grace will coordinate), which will need to be held outside due to virus and after date for judging nailed down.

Reisling Grapes for Sale

The Riesling Group Buy is still Forming and there's still time to get in on this group buy.

SWGGA members have an opportunity again this year to purchase locally grown Riesling grapes from Folly Hill Vineyard near Nevada City. These are truly exceptional grapes. Much like the group buy in 2017, we can pre-order any amount that suits our needs. More details, including price and anticipated pick date, are to follow, but, it would be very helpful to get an idea of people's interest. If you are interested, and please indicate how many pounds you would anticipate buying. No obligation to purchase at this time.

Get in touch, if you're interested. Contact: Peter Willcox

at willcoxps@yahoo.com

Sierra Wine & Grape Growers Association

SWGGA Swag Will Be Available at Monthly Meetings

Susan Clarabut reports that she will have a few shirts for viewing, and for sale, at our next regular meeting. The inventory is currently limited in sizes, but we are able to order more. See below for a description of the new shirts and prices, as well as, other great SWGGA Swag items. Get in touch with Susan if you wish to check pricing, place an order, or have questions, at sclarabut@gmail.com or 530-432-0708



Brimmed Cap - \$18.00



Apron - \$18.00



Vineyard Sign - \$35.00



Cork Screw - \$12.00



Women's Long Sleeve Shirt - \$38.00



Men's Short Sleeve Shirt - \$38.00



Wine Glass - \$3.00

Please Remember to Support our Commercial SWGGA

[Chacewater Winery & Olive Mill](#)
[Clavey Vineyard & Winery](#)
[Lucero Vineyard & Winery](#)

[Gray Pine Vineyard & Winery](#)
[Sierra Moonshine](#)
[O'Hara's Brew House Supply](#)

Our Commercial members support us with the generosity of their time and knowledge, and we'd like to support them as well. Buy some wine or supplies, and refer and encourage your friends and visitors to get to know these SWGGA supporters.

Sierra Wine & Grape Growers Association

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Trellis Editor- Gwen Smedberg

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SWGGA Website – swgga.org

Please Note

We're always looking for new ideas for speakers and subjects at the monthly meetings. Even if you just think it might be a good one, pass it on to a Board member. Maybe it's you, or an acquaintance... think about it.

Board of Directors Meetings: All members are welcome at the SWGGA Board of Directors 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 meetings.

Check your profile on the website to see if the data is correct. Go to the SWGGA the website at swgga.org. If there should be corrections made, let Jim Garrett know, so he can make the adjustments. (webmaster@swgga.org 415-450-1450)

Also, if your spouse, or significant other, wishes to be included on the email list, please send the request with the details to the Communications Coordinator, Jim Garrett. (jim@relateddata.com 415-450-1450)

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