

WINE GRAPE INFORMATION FOR PENNSYLVANIA AND THE REGION

From Penn State Cooperative Extension

Table of Contents

1. Grape Disease, Insect and Weed Management Workshop:
Lancaster/Erie/Washington/Montrose/Smethport, PA - March 17 (attachment)
New Grape Grower Workshops in PA and VA - April 7 and 8 (attachment)
2. Other upcoming meetings around the region for wine growers
3. Grape Diseases and Pests and Proper Application Methods and Technologies (attachment)
4. New Viticulture Info Resources: Vine Physiology and Cornell Web Site
5. Viticulture and enology instructors needed for new HACC V&E program

We really are in the heart of the busy winter meeting months. There are so many great choices of workshops and seminars to attend. Here are a few key offerings in the Mid-Atlantic region:

IN PENNSYLVANIA:

Grape Disease, Insect and Weed Management Workshop. 2009 was a challenging year for many wine growers in the region. The annual grape disease and pest workshop will address the issues in the vineyard from downy and powdery to weeds and innovative spray technologies. Dr Andrew Landers from Cornell University is a spray technology innovator and educator. He'll explain how to make sure the materials you apply get to the target. Dr. Noemi Halbrendt and Bryan Hed worked with Jim Travis and continue the tradition of outstanding grape pathology extension education work in Pennsylvania. They will cover the major disease in the context of 2009. I have seen Scott Guiser help to clean up weeds in vineyards. His recommendation work. If you have a weed problem, you should hear his talk. Dr. Mike Saunders covers the bugs from innovative biology-based recommendations for GBM to JBs and YJs. We'll cover cultural practices and its role in vineyard IPM.

Date: Wednesday, March 17, 2010

Place: Farm and Home Center, Lancaster, PA. Video-teleconference to Washington County, Susquehanna County and Erie County.

Fee: \$25 registration fee

Please see attachment for information and registration: "[Grape Disease Workshop Reg-Info](#)"

A New Grape Grower Workshop will be presented on Wednesday, April 7, 2010 at the Penn State Fruit Research and Extension Center in Biglerville, PA (Adams County). It will be team-taught by regional extension viticulture educators. It is an intensive, full-day, comprehensive overview of what is needed to plan and establish a commercial wine grape vineyard in the Mid-Atlantic region. It is targeted to individuals who are considering starting a vineyard and new wine grape growers who still need to acquire viticulture and management knowledge. The registration fee is \$125 and includes breaks, lunch and handouts. Registration and information is attached: **see "[New Grape Grower Workshop Reg-Info](#)"**

ATTENTION!! A similar new grower workshop will be presented on 8 April 2010 at the AHS Jr. AREC in Winchester VA (<http://www.arec.vaes.vt.edu/alson-h-smith/contact/index.html>). Contact Dr. Tony Wolf (vitis@vt.edu) for details, or watch for details in the March-April Viticulture Notes.

Wineries Unlimited is the BIGGIE in the East. It is held at the Valley Forge Convention Center in King of Prussia, PA from March 9-12. It has a huge equipment and supply trade show and seminars and sessions on a wide range of viticulture, enology and marketing topics. It begins on Tuesday with a special session for Industry Newcomers. Extreme Viticulture and Healthy Fermentations are the theme on Wednesday. Andy Beckstoffer, the legendary independent wine grape grower from California is the keynote speaker at lunch and the Best of the East Grand Gala and American Society for Enology and Viticulture Eastern Section Benefit Auction is held Wednesday evening. A marketing seminar on Friday focuses on brand building. You can find complete details at <http://wineriesunlimited.vwm-online.com/>

IN NEW JERSEY, MARYLAND AND VIRGINIA (very accessible to PA wine growers):

Bordeaux Wine Making Meetings: why go to France when it will come to you? Bordeaux is on the minds of many wine growers in the Mid-Atlantic regions and that interest is being addressed by educators in NJ and VA. There are two excellent meetings coming up that will take an in-depth look at Bordeaux varieties and how to grow them in the Mid-Atlantic:

Virginia Vineyards Association 2010 Technical Meeting, March 4-6 at the Omni Hotel in Charlottesville, VA. A Bordeaux seminar is offered on Thursday, March 4 from 1 p.m to 5 p.m. Dr Tony Wolf will moderate a panel of outstanding VA wine growers and talk about viticulture and enology research at Virginia Tech. A wine tasting is included in the seminar. The conference continues Friday and Saturday with a wide range of vit/enol topics and a trade show. More info and registration at <http://www.virginiavineyardsassociation.com/events.php>

The Outer Coastal Plain Association in New Jersey with Rutgers University has put together a program titled: Bordeaux - An Old World Terroir with Lessons for NJ. A cast of outstanding speakers include Dr. Kees van Leeuwen, viticulturist at Chateau Cheval Blanc, Dr. Greg Jones, viticulture climatologist from Oregon, Dr. Catherine Peyrot des Gachons, a wine maker from the University of Bordeaux who has worked internationally and in NJ and PA, and Dr. Denyse Lemaire, a geologist from Rowan University. Wines will be tasted. The meeting is at the Rutgers Agriculture Research and Extension Center in Bridgeton, NJ on Saturday, March 27, 2010 from 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. You can find information at <http://www.outercoastalplain.com/>

The Maryland Grape Growers Association, Maryland Wine Association and Univ of Maryland are hosting two excellent meetings next week. The first is an Intermediate Grape Grower Workshop offered by UMD on Friday, March 5th from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Maryland Department of Agriculture in Annapolis. It covers all essential vineyard topics including canopy

management, weed and pest control, vineyard expenses, crop management, vineyard nutrition and harvest decisions. The cost is \$40. Please contact Susan Barnes or Joe Fiola for information and registration at 301-432-2767 or sbarnes6@umd.edu.

On Saturday, March 6th, MGGA and MWA co-host their Annual Meeting at the Clarion Hotel in Oxon Hill, MD. It is a well-rounded program with viticulture and enology breakout sessions. Peter Gristina, a very experienced grape grower from Long Island is one of the featured speakers. You can register on-line at <http://www.marylandgrapes.org/>

There is a lot of great information packed into these meetings. But maybe the best benefit is getting out to meet with fellow grape growers from other areas and talk with them and visit their vineyards. The only way to make really good wines, native, hybrid and vinifera is to constantly learn the best practices and technologies that will allow you to improve quality and advance the art and science of growing grapes and making wines. These are golden opportunities to do exactly that.

Grape Diseases and Spray Application Methods and Technologies: 2009 was a rough and tumble year in the vineyard for diseases and other problems. Fault-free fruit is essential to make good wines. We have lots of great tools to battle the bad guys in the vineyard but just as important is giving those tools every opportunity to work effectively. Applying spray materials to vines is not as easy as hooking up the sprayer and driving a tractor. There is a lot of effort that goes into a designing and executing a proper spray application. I thought back to my days of spraying and tried to describe the complex set of decisions and actions that will ultimately contribute to squeaky clean fruit. See attachment: **Disease Control and Spray Technology in Vineyards.**

Viticulture Information from Long Island and Cornell: If you have read me in the past you know that I believe that Long Island is the most accomplished viticulture region in the Eastern US. The work that Alice Wise and Libby Tarleton and other Cornell research and extension colleagues contribute enormously to that reputation. Alice and Libby do outstanding applied research directed at helping their primarily vinifera industry to push quality higher and further. They have developed a web site with very helpful resources to the quality conscious grower based on their work and other Cornell resources. You can view it at: <http://ccesuffolk.org/viticulture/>

Vine Physiology: Read All About It: If you think about your personal health and well being it makes sense to have some understanding about how the human body works. The same applies to the grapevines in the vineyard. You can simply farm them as inanimate objects or you can try to gain an understanding of their structure and function and how they work. I believe this knowledge and appreciation of the physiology of the vine will make any grape grower a better one. A new book by Dr. Markus Keller at Washington State University titled: *The Science of Grapevines: Anatomy and Physiology* has just been published and it is an excellent viticulture

resource. First of all, I know Markus and he is a terrific researcher who does work that helps growers in Washington State. What he has done here is taken a phenomenal amount of knowledge about the vine and stuffed it into 300 pages of text that is accessible to the non-scientific grape grower. Yes, there is no shortage of chemistry, pathways and formulas but there is also a lot of practical information that can be applied in the field. Remember the quality charts for products in Consumer Reports with the red and black circles? Well Markus uses this same system to rate rootstocks, now that is practical! Clones? Here is one of his comments, *"It is currently fashionable to plant clonal selections in vineyards, although choices are often based on the "fallacy of the perfect clone" - that is, on the false assumption that the "best" clone found on one site will also perform best in a new location. Yet the performance or suitability of a clone on a particular site is strongly modified by the site's environment (soil, climate conditions, cultural practices, etc.) and also depends on the desired end use of the grapes and even regulatory circumstances (e.g., yield restrictions)."* That's advice I wish I would give! Chapters include: Botany and Anatomy, Phenology and Growth Cycle, Water Relations and Nutrient Uptake, Photosynthesis and Respiration, Partitioning of Assimilates, Developmental Physiology and Environmental Constraints and Stress Physiology. The reference section is a book unto itself. This may not be an easy reading summer beach book but it is definitely a good winter read. I highly recommend it to the serious wine grower. Elsevier/Academic Press. 2010. ISBN 978-0-12-374881-2. Available at amazon.com.

Viticulture and Enology Adjunct Faculty Opportunities: Harrisburg Area Community is recruiting adjunct faculty to teach a number of courses in their Viticulture and Enology programs. The courses are delivered through on-line and blended formats and faculty are required to complete HACC's Virtual Campus Online Academy. For more information, please contact Linda Lefevre at lalefevr@hacc.edu or Bob Green at ragreen@hacc.edu. This educational program is schedule to begin in the fall of 2010. More details will be forthcoming via this and other viticulture information outlets.