

## WINE GRAPE INFORMATION FOR PENNSYLVANIA AND THE REGION

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### Grape and Barrel Newsletter

The newsletter is back and will be delivered on or around 15th of each month. Our team has been expanded this year to include Dr. Michael Saunders, extension entomologist, Bryan Hed, research associate at the Northeast Research Lab and Andy Muza, horticulture extension in Erie. Look for their contributions to G&B. This month's issue features:

- Soil, Water and Wine Quality
- 2005 Vintage Notes: Bittersweet Harvest?
- Whither Goes Penn State Enology Research?

### Pennsylvania Association of Winegrowers Grape Grower Forum

Phil Roth, owner of Roth Vineyard in Adams County in south central PA is one of the region's most experienced vinifera wine growers. Phil planted grapes to compliment his apple orchard over 25 years ago and the experience he has is very valuable, as are his grapes which command among the highest prices in the state. Phil is one of the most observant growers I have ever met and is always ready with an experiment to test out a new idea in his vineyard. He is also very generous in sharing his knowledge and experience. Phil proposed to PAW this past winter to begin a grape grower forum in which he would publish timely e-mails during the growing season detailing what he sees and is doing in his vineyard and from that growers could both learn and initiate an exchange ideas and information. Forum is available to members of PAW and I would argue that this alone is worth the price of admission (membership) although there are plenty of other reasons to join PAW. If you want to keep up with what is going in an all vinifera vineyard in the words of a veteran grower, then you should get access to forum. You can find more information at the PAW web site...[www.pawinegrowers.com/](http://www.pawinegrowers.com/).

### Spray Season is Here...

Many of you have heard Dr. Andrew Landers from Cornell talk about the nuts and bolts of spraying and sprayer maintenance. Here are some fact sheets that will help you to optimize your spray delivery and efficiency and maintain your equipment and safety. My gratitude to Andrew for always sharing his work with us.

**Pest management:** With the growing season just around the corner, now is the time to make sure your sprayers are calibrated, serviced, and ready to go. Andrew Landers has several excellent publications posted at his web site, specifically aimed at vineyard application:

<http://www.nysaes.cornell.edu/ent/faculty/landers/pestapp/grape.htm>

**Operator checklist:** This check sheet goes through suggested maintenance checks that should be performed to make sure your sprayer is operating properly:

<http://www.nysaes.cornell.edu/ent/faculty/landers/pestapp/publications/Operator%20Check%20Sheet%20for%20airblast%20revised%20edition.doc>

**Airblast Sprayer Calibration:** Provides a worksheet for calculating your sprayer's output:

<http://www.nysaes.cornell.edu/ent/faculty/landers/pestapp/publications/Calibration%20airblast%201.doc>

**Sprayer Calibration:** Describes how to get an accurate measure of tractor speed for calibration calculations.

<http://www.nysaes.cornell.edu/ent/faculty/landers/pestapp/publications/Calibration%20speed.doc>

**Improve sprayer deposition with adjustments in airflow:** Early-season pesticide applications are more prone to drift and losses because the canopy is so sparse. Reducing and directing airflow early in the season can improve deposition and reduce drift.

<http://www.nysaes.cornell.edu/ent/faculty/landers/pestapp/publications/ADJUSTMENTS%20IN%20AIRFLOW.doc>

#### National Viticulture Extension Leadership Conference

Most of the viticulture agents in the U.S. met for the first time ever in San Antonio, TX in late March. The goal of the meeting was to survey the viticulture landscape across the country and figure out how extension can better serve grape growers. Everyone is working hard with limited resources to serve their local grower communities and we talked a lot about how to combine our resources to become more effective and efficient. I hope you will continue to support the land grant extension services. 40-50 dedicated individuals serving almost 1 million acres of grapes spread us pretty thin and we need all the help we can get. But we are anxious to develop more resources and methods to serve grape growers in every state and would like to interact with industry, government, academic colleagues and other partners and stakeholders about how we can best provide the services that growers need and deserve. A brief summary of the meeting is attached to this message.

#### 2006 Wine Grape Program at Penn State

While we are well into 2006 already and a lot has already been done I thought I would provide a summary of what I am doing to serve wine growers in the Commonwealth. I have attached a brief summary of the projects I am working currently working on and some of the things I have done so far. If you have any comments, suggestions, criticisms you are welcome to address them to me or you can contact any member of my advisory

committee, Linda Baird-Jansen is the chair. But I always welcome ideas from growers about how I can better serve you. Thank you.

Two upcoming meetings....

Viticulture/enology twilight meeting at Arrowhead Vineyards in the Erie region on May 8. Call Andy Muza for information at 814-825-0900.

Wine Blending Workshop at Linden Vineyards in northern Virginia on May 11. Call Mark Chien for information.

Programs are attached.

Note: We had another wonderful meeting of growers and wine makers in southwest Pennsylvania hosted by Steve Addleman at Glades Pike Vineyard in Somerset. About 20 growers attended to hear talks on early season viticulture, winery sanitation and soil nutrition and testing. Craig Rowland, wine maker at Lopic and CT Miller, talked about Norton and brought a 2005 sample to share that had great color, body, balance and concentration. Lee Young, the extension director in Washington County continues to provide great service to the emerging wine industry in the region. Glades Pike is a classic example of a successful rural winery that relies both on wine products and accessories as well as wine entertainment. The winery is clean and very well equipped. A small vineyard has sprouted up next to the winery but they continue to rely heavily on juice and grape products as their raw materials. They have a number of vineyard suppliers in the area and around the state. Steve is incredibly knowledgeable about what it takes to start a winery business far away from the mainstream. It was a good chance for growers with similar interests, goals and challenges to get together to share ideas, solve problems and enjoy each other's company. I thank Lee, Craig and Steve for all their efforts in organizing this meeting. If you wish to join the SW PA wine growers group, please contact Lee Young at 724-228-6881.

**Attachments:**

[GBv2no1.pdf \(Grape and Barrel\)](#)

[ERIE Twilight mtg\\_05082006.doc](#)

[2006 Wine Grape Program.doc](#)

[NVELCnotes\\_Mar06.doc](#)

[Blend Workshop\\_05112006.doc](#)

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