

The Grapevine

Newsletter of the Sacramento Home Winemakers, Inc.

August 2012

August 15, 2012 SHW Meeting From Home Winemaker to Professional

In This Issue

August 15 Program	1
President's Message	1
Leadership	2
Volunteers	2
Club Calendar	3
Mentors	3
Club Announcements	3
Wine Competitions	4
Club Equipment	5
Club Resources	6

Sacramento Home Winemakers (SHW) monthly meetings are held on the 3rd Wednesdays of the month starting at 7 PM, upstairs at the Turn Verein located at 3349 J Street in midtown Sacramento. For more information on SHW membership, meetings and activities, visit:

www.SacHomeWine.org

So, you think the only difference between being a home winemaker and going commercial is the size of the toys?

Come find out for yourself at the August 15 SHW meeting as former SHW members Phil Maddux and John Troiano return to share their trials and rewards on going commercial. Phil Maddux is the co-owner and winemaker of Lone Buffalo Vineyards in Auburn/Placer County, and is currently in the midst of relocating the winery to another Auburn site, and John Troiano is one of the partners of Wreckless Blenders in Carmichael/Sacramento.

If you're tinkering with the thought of going commercial, spend this entertaining evening with us.

Please bring a bottle of wine to share and a wine glass for your use. Thanks to all for helping set up before the meeting. We are to vacate the meeting room by 9:30 PM and your help in facilitating the clean-up is appreciated.

-- **Bill Staehlin, Vice President**

President's Message



Dear SHW Members:

Last Saturday, our 2011 Petite Sirah Focus Group spent a languid afternoon at Bogle Vineyards. It was a homecoming of sorts, as it was from Bogle Vineyards that we had sourced our grapes.

Each of us brought food to share, our winemaking notes, and a bottle of our Petite Sirah enjoying the outdoors, under the trees the picnic area.

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2012 Boards and Appointees

Executive Board

President - Donna Bettencourt
bettencourt1045@softcom.net

Vice President - Bill Staehlin
bill.staehlin@sbcglobal.net

Treasurer - Mike Touchette
pinotsyrah@yahoo.com

Secretary - Sue Summersett
sbsummer2002@yahoo.com

Membership Co-Chairs
Fred Millar & Gin Yang
fred.millar1@gmail.com
ginyangstaehlin@yahoo.com

Past President - Lynn Keay
lynn.keay@gmail.com

Board Appointees

Chief Judge - D. D. Smith
ddanjo@sbcglobal.net

Cellar Master - Henry Wilkinson
hbwilkinson@jps.net

Club Competition Coordinator

Mentors Coordinator

Web Manager

Judy Pinegar
judypinegar@gmail.com

Hospitality Coordinator-Sonia Baron
soniabaron@hotmail.com

Community Relations
Debbie Moretton
dem1019@sbcglobal.net

John Avila
mail@john-avila.com

Historian - Gary Young
gycats@earthlink.net

The Grapevine Editor - vacant

Board of Directors

Judy Pinegar (Chair)
Mike Touchette
Fred Millar
Lynn Keay
Donna Bettencourt

There were Linda Clevenger and Seth Brunner, Henry Wilkinson, Lloyd and Ellen Bakan, Jed McLaughlin, and myself (sorry that you could not make it Carol). We were joined by Warren Bogle, President and Vineyard Manager for Bogle Vineyards who had graciously left orders to reserve a table for us, and to offer us two bottles of his own 2009 Petite Sirah.

What happened then was pure grace. Warren sampled each of our wines, giving comments, as he shared with us his love for his family winery and his operations. He manages 1,500 acres of wine grapes for Bogle – no easy task. We were struck by his passion for growing wonderful grapes, and his genuine interest in our winemaking efforts.



We shared our notes with him, and took notes on his comments. After nearly two hours, we had shared with him as much as he had shared with us.

He whispered to me, midway through, "So, Donna, what did you all do after you picked up the grapes in the truck?" I told him that Carol and I had driven the truck to Henry's (nearly dumping the load at the nearly 20 degree incline up to the levy road!), and that we had then crushed and destemmed the grapes, each taking home their

must and from then on, making wine in our own way.

His final wistful comment to us really made me smile, "You know, talking to all of you, it makes me want to make wine." This, from a winemaking industry giant! But, I think that he meant it, and that it was a tribute to the winemaking passion expressed by the members of our Petite Sirah Focus Group.

So, as we look forward to our August program, devoted to home winemakers who turned "pro", let us take our hats off to this professional yearning to become a home winemaker!

Happy Winemaking!

-- **Donna Bettencourt**

Thanks for Stepping Up!

Your Club appreciates your help in keeping the organization running smoothly and extends special thanks to:

- Linda Clevenger and Seth Brunner for coordinating and bringing the hospitality cheese and bread for June's meeting; and
- Carol Clark and Sonia Baron for hosting July's executive board retreat.

2012 SHW Calendar

August 15 Wednesday	General Meeting: From Home Winemaking to Commercial Winery <i>Speakers: Phil Maddux, Lone Buffalo Vineyards and John Troiano, Wreckless Blenders</i>
September 5	Executive Board Meeting, Gold River <i>Contact President Donna Bettencourt – 916 454-5487; bettencourt1045@softcom.net</i>
September 19 Wednesday	General Meeting: Oak Impacts on Wine <i>Speaker: Jeff McCord, StaVin</i>
Date TBA	Winemakers Harvest Dinner Looking for coordinator and location <i>Contact Co-Membership Chair Fred Millar – 916 576-9596; fredmillar1@gmail.com</i>
October 17 Wednesday	General Meeting: Sparklers, Desserts, Fruits and Ports Evaluation <i>Evaluator: Gerald Cresci</i>
November 14 Wednesday	General Meeting: Annual Elections, Gold and Silver Winners Tasting, and Travelogue <i>Members Invited to Present: 2012 Gold and Silver Awardees, and Travelers</i>
December 16 Sunday	Holiday Party, Delta King <i>No General Meeting</i>

Monthly meetings generally start at 7 PM on the 3rd Wednesdays of the month, upstairs at the Turn Verein, 3349 J Street, Sacramento. Show up at 6:30 PM with your wine glass and a bottle of wine and enjoy wine making camaraderie. Please bring 2 wine glasses for evaluation meetings. Thanks for helping set up and cleaning at the meetings.

Board meetings start at 6:30 PM on the 1st Wednesdays of the month.

September Executive Board Meeting – September 5 Wednesday, 6:30PM –8PM in Gold River

All SHW members are encouraged to attend the Club's Executive Board Meeting at least one time, so why not make September's Board meeting the one to attend? The September meeting will be held at a member's home in Gold River.

This is a great way to get involved and to learn more about your Club. At the September meeting, we will be finishing up or planning for the September (continued on the next page)

Mentors

Looking for a winemaking mentor?
Judy Pinegar can help you find one.

Judy Pinegar, Loomis (Coordinator)
916 652-5198
judypineagar@gmail.com **F,R,W**

Carl & Lili Brust, Loomis
916 652-9001
lcb Brust@garlic.com **S,W**

Debra Moreton, Auburn
916 296-1115
dem1019@sbcglobal.net **V**

Mike Touchette, Diamond Springs
530 748-9677
pinotsyrah@yahoo.com **R,W**

Gerald Cresci, Herald
209 748-2122 **F,P,VM**

Paul & Nancy Baldwin, Elk Grove
916 684-2086
pbaldwin@frontiernet.net **R,VM,W**

Henry Wilkinson, Sacramento
916 446-6276
hbwilkinson@jps.net **R**

Jim Margolis, Sacramento
916 451-4279
jamadapa@att.net **R,W**

Donna Bettencourt, Sacramento
916 454-5487
bettencourt1045@softcom.net **R,W**

D. D. Smith, Gold River
916 638-8849
ddanjo@sbcglobal.net **I,P,R,W**

Lynn Keay, Gold River
lynn.keay@gmail.com **F,R,W**

Rex Johnston, East Bay
925 930-2897
Wine4rex@yahoo.com **F,R,W**

Mentor Wine Specialties:

F = fruit; **I** = ice; **P** = port; **R** = red;
S = sparkler; **V** = viognier; **VM** =
vineyard management; **W** = white

and October programs, map out the different varietal focus groups that will be offered for this coming harvest season, and plan for the upcoming Harvest Dinner. Stay for the board meeting, help out with our activities, and later join us for a potluck and sharing of wines. Contact Bill Staehlin, Vice President for location: bill.staehlin@sbcglobal.net and 916 216-1753.

-- President Donna Bettencourt

Show Us Your Wine Travels

The October meeting is getting finalized and we'd like to feature your wine travel adventures to distant lands! Share your trip's winery finds with slides or Power Point presentations. SHW has can assist in purchasing wines of the region for tasting by our members.

Please contact VP Bill Staehlin at (916)216-1753 or Bill.Staehlin@sbcglobal.net if you are interested.



June Jubilee Ribbons Available From Competition Coordinator Judy

If you didn't get your June Jubilee award ribbons from Judy at the July meeting, let her know and she'll make arrangements to get them to you. Judy's at judypinegar@gmail.com and 916 652-5198

Harvest Dinner



The annual Winemakers Harvest Dinner is a relaxing time when members take time from the rush of the crush and share their harvest adventures and home wines.

The Harvest Dinner is looking to secure an date at a restaurant for 50-70 people; negotiate the dinner menu and pricing that is inclusive of corkage fees, sales tax and gratuity (some restaurants waive corkage fees); and apply the details to make this event outstanding.

This is a fun way to get more involved with SHW! If you're interested in participating, please contact Fred Millar at fredmillar1@gmail.com or 916 376-9596.

2013 SHW Executive Board Nominations

The SHW Board of Directors (BOD) is responsible for seeking candidates interested in serving on the Club's executive board. The executive board is comprised of 6 positions: president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, membership chair and immediate past president. Descriptions of these positions are detailed in the Club's Bylaws Article V available on the Club's website at www.sachomewine.org.

The annual election is held at the November board meeting. If you are interested in serving in an elected capacity or any of the appointed positions (see "2012 Board and Appointees" on page 2), please contact BOD Chair Judy Pinegar or President Donna Bettencourt.



Amateur Wine and Label Competitions

San Joaquin County Fair – Lodi Amateur Vintners Association in conjunction with the fair offers amateur wine and wine label competitions. Entry forms are due by **August 11**. See www.sanjoaquinfair.com or www.lavawine.org for more information.

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Yolo County Fair – amateur wine entries are accepted through **August 13**. No fruit wines accepted. See the fair’s website at: www.yolocountyfair.net.

Gold Country Fair – the fair’s amateur/homemade wine contest entries must be received by **August 21** at noon. Competitors must reside in Sacramento, Placer, El Dorado and Nevada counties. More information at: www.goldcountryfair.com

WineMaker Magazine - the magazine invites entries for its 13th annual wine label contest. Entries must be received by **September 28, 2012** and winners will be published in the December 2012-January 2013 issue of the magazine. Details at: www.winemakermag.com.

Corkage Fee Free Restaurants

You love your wine and want to take it to dinner with you but sometimes the corkage fees charged by restaurants are, well, a little pricey. There are a few area restaurants who have special “corkage free or reduced-corkage fee” offers. If you know of a restaurant that’s corkage free friendly, let Web Manager Judy Pinegar know and she’ll add it to the newest feature on the SHW website. Judy: judyvinegar@gmail.com and 916 652-5198.

2012 Varietal Focus Groups

If you have a grape source and would like to enjoy the power of group purchase, consider leading a varietal focus group by sourcing the grapes, and organizing the crushing/destemming process. Please contact Prez Donna Bettencourt at 916 454-5487 and bettencourt1045@softcom.net to coordinate.

Looking for Grapes? www.sachomewine.org

Check out grapes or winemaking equipment for sale by clicking on the “Classified Ads” words on the right side of the page. Varietal focus groups are located by clicking on the “Winemaking Help” words also on the right side of the page. Club equipment information is found at the “Member Services” tab across the top of the page.

Technical Meetings in Real Time



We’re thinking about video recording meetings or Skyping them or something similar to capture the Clubs’s monthly programs so that they can be viewed remotely and/or at a later time. If you have ideas or resources to help bring this together, please contact Prez Donna Bettencourt: (916) 454-5487 and bettencourt1045@softcom.net.

Club Equipment

Club equipment can be borrowed by SHW members. Reservations are handled on a first come, first served basis with a signed “Release Agreement” on file.

Destemmer-Crusher

Contact:

Andy Walter, 916 955-6373
andrew.walter@sbcglobal.net

Basket Press

Contact:

Lynn Keay, 916 969-4924
lynn.keay@gmail.com

Filter

Contact:

Donna Bettencourt, 916 454-5487
bettencourt1045@softcom.net

Please help keep Club equipment in optimum shape for everyone to use.

- Thoroughly clean and return equipment within 24 hours.
- Notify equipment coordinator of equipment malfunctions or damage.
- Provide your own paper filters for the filter.
- Schedule thoughtfully during peak season as several members may need to borrow the equipment on the same day.

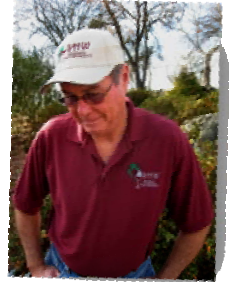
“Release Agreements” are available at the monthly SHW meetings. Be proactive: if you’re planning to borrow Club equipment, attend the equipment training and complete the form. See Prez Donna Bettencourt for additional information.

Club Resources

Logo Glassware Large clear wine glasses deep-etched with the SHW logo are available for purchase.

Logowear Get your own SHW polo shirt and baseball cap (modeled by Bob Summersett on right). Please contact Sue Summersett (see above for contact info).

For details on both SHW glassware and logowear go to www.sachomewine.org and click on "Member Services." Contact Sue Summersett with inquiries: sbsummer2002@yahoo.com and 916 354-2050.



Oak Cubes Vice President Bill Staehlin volunteers to coordinate the purchase of oak cubes (beans) for the Club. He can be reached at (916) 216-1753 or bill.staehlin@sbcglobal.net.

Mentors Looking for wine making help? Judy Pinegar is the Club's mentor coordinator: jpinegar@calwisp.com or 916 652-5198.

Bottle Award Stickers Bottle stickers for Jubilee award winning wines (gold, silver and bronze) are available for purchase at meetings. 6 stickers for \$3 or 12 for \$5.



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