

Web Site www.pasorobleswinegrapes.com



**Independent Grape Growers
Paso Robles Area**

Volume 13, Issue 2 President-Ken Bray Editor-Sharen Rund Bloechl

**The Independent Grape Growers of the Paso Robles Area Invites
You to the March Seminar!**

Pest Control Material Update & New Well Water Level Measuring Device

1.5 Hours of CEU Credit Applied For

Topics & Speakers:

1:00 - 1:30

Vineyard Product Label Update - Dennis Devitt, BASF

1:30 - 2:00 Vertebrate Control Material - and Vineyard Herbicide Label Update - Dale Eversen, PCA & Former IGGPRA Vice President, Paso Robles Farm Supply Co.

2:00 - 2:30 Our Powdery Mildew Control Program and a Review of Mildew Control Materials - Brenda Wolgamott, PCA & Vineyard Manager, J&L Farms,

2:30 - 3:00 Susan Hayes, A New Easy to Use Device for Measuring Depth to Groundwater in Wells - Paso Robles Farm Supply Co.

Location:

JLohr Meeting Room, 6169 Airport Drive, Paso Robles, CA

Date: March 11, 2015 Time: 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Free for IGGPRA Members, \$20 for Non-Members -

Space is limited.

RSVP for "Seminar" at
805-461-1391 or
doris@kobravineyard.com



BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2014

Ken Bray—President

805-459-6075 bray@kobravineyard.com

Lowell Zelinski—Vice President & Seminars

805-434-3331 lowell@precisionaginc.com

Ken Bray —Membership

Steve Felten - Winery Outreach Chair

805-712-1082 winesage@feltencellars.com

Bob Fonarow—Treasurer

805-227-4424 bobfonarow@att.net

Serena Friedman—Winery Outreach

818-266-9977 Foursistersranch@gmail.com

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Michelle Hido—Special Events

310-795-7263 michellehido@gmail.com

Joe Irick—Associate Membership & Winery Outreach

805-237-2309 Joe.irick@yahoo.com

Lara Liu—Secretary & Seminars

805-400-8099 larawilsonliu@gmail.com

Angela Mitchell— Winery Outreach

805-239-8555 angela@mitchella.com

Sharen Rund Bloechl—Newsletter

805-462-3489 usaindustries@pacbell.net

Mike Collins—Historian

805-462-0171

MARKETING – AR & CO, LLC.

Angela Robinson 805-239-4443

Website Angela Robinson

Web Master – AR & Co. PR & Marketing
angela@arandcompany.com

President Emeritus – Richard Sauret

805-467-3998 sauretvines@gmail.com

2015 IGGPRA CALENDAR

All dates/seminars are subject to change.
Contact ANY board member to offer your suggestions for upcoming seminars!

Apr 18	Social 6-9 pm	San Miguel Parish Hall
June	Social	
Aug	Social	
Oct	Social	
Dec	Christmas Social 6-9 pm	San Miguel Parish Hall

Planned Seminars for 2015:

Seminars will be held every other month except for October and December.

Here is a listing of the proposed seminar topics and months for 2015. Once the locations and dates are confirmed we will let you know.

Look for more exciting Seminars in the months to come:

- > April 15 Tooth & Nail
- > May TBD
- > July TBD
- > September TBD
- > November TBD



March 17-18, 2015



VINEYARD TEAM
Promoting Sustainable Winegrowing



EARTH DAY
FOOD & WINE WEEKEND
Grown for the greater good



CAB COLLECTIVE

WiVi 3/17-18

Vineyard 3/26

Earth Day 4/17-19


CAB Collective 5/5-7

March 2015



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17 	18 	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26 	27	28
29	30	31				

April 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15 Seminar	16	17 	18 Social
19 	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

President's Message



Dear Fellow Growers, Associates and Friends of IGGPRA,

What happened to winter? We always look forward to the doldrums of post holiday merriment as calming and reflective. A chance to review the things we did right and want to repeat as well as the things that didn't, plan for the new season, contemplate the rain gauge, travel and just "take a break" while the vineyard slept. It seems, however, that a grander design had other plans. Seventy and eighty degree January and February and the vines are leafing, the row crop is up to your waist, the gophers have awakened and you're already behind your pruning schedule. Well that's my story and I'd guess many of you are in the same boat. You've gotta love this business.

So, the February Social and Annual Meeting provided a respite from the early demands of the vineyard. It was a great Italian dining masterpiece featuring the culinary talents of our members. The antipasti, pastas, dolci and vino made for a memorable meal. Molto buona! Eighty-one members and guests attended and in addition to the food and wine an expanded raffle featuring 2 tickets to the WiVi Conference and Trade Show (valued at \$250 each and donated by Lowell and Becky Zelinski), 2 six glass boxes of IGGPRA logo wine glasses and the standard 50/50 was conducted. The February Social is also the culmination of the election of Directors that will serve on the IGGPRA Board for the next 2 years. In addition to myself, Bob Fonarow and Michelle Hido were reelected and Angela Mitchell was newly elected. Congratulations to Angela and thanks to our Nominating Committee for providing a great slate of candidates.

The highlight of the evening, of course, was not the food nor wine, the expanded raffle or the election results but my Annual Report to members. Those of you unable to attend as well as those complaining that I could not be heard, deserve a reiteration. The following is a brief overview of that presentation.

At 2014 year end IGGPRA boasted a membership of 231 of which 132 were Growers, 75 Merchant Associates and 24 Friends. We believe that we continue to be the largest "grower focused" association on the Central Coast. In support of this membership the Board of Directors and Committee Chair volunteers along with A.R. & Co, our PR and Marketing arm have the challenge of:

Growing our member base by broadening awareness and image,
Keeping our current members by providing valuable and relevant services,
And, holding our fee structure by balancing income and expenses.

To meet this challenge we began the following initiatives:

- Created a SPECIAL EVENTS activity managed by Michelle Hido that planned and organized IGGPRA's participation in Wine Expo and WiVi, Chamber of Commerce window displays and Pioneer Day and Holiday Parades (a first for IGGPRA).

(continued on next page)

President's Message (continued from page 4)

- Created a WINERY OUTREACH activity managed by Steve Felten in an effort to provide added exposure for the roughly 20% of grower members that make and sell wine by designing a link on our website that connects to theirs giving them an opportunity to connect with the 1300 or so visitors to IGGPRA's website each month.
- Created a GROWERS FORUM managed by Lowell Zelinski where you can exchange ideas, pose problems and get answers from other grower members (our "chat room"). This idea came from a long time grower member, Bob Krivacek.
- Building on the Directory initiated by Allene Elder in 2013, we produced a high quality MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY that is clearly the class of the industry. This was achieved as a result of a consolidated effort by all Directors, Chairs and A.R. & Co. with a major part of costs covered by our Merchant Associate advertising coordinated by Joe Irick and Sharen Bloechl.
- And we're not done. While all this activity was underway we produced:
- 6 bimonthly NEWSLETTERS, under the direction of editor Sharen Bloechl,
- 6 SOCIALS, planned and managed by Linda and Frank Galano and Lara Liu and Lowell Zelinski planned and organized 6 SEMINARS.
- As this was going on A.R. & Co. under our direction managed the website and developed our internet products, maintained member files, created and placed our PR provided a sounding board for our marketing ideas and perhaps, most importantly, answered the phone.

We hope to continue these efforts in 2015, adding programs that make sense and are within the scope of our budgets, dropping those that don't. We think are efforts are working. As we enter 2015 we have achieved the strongest level of renewal memberships in the past 3 years. But, and you must have known there would be a but, TO MAINTAIN THIS LEVEL OF ACTIVITY AND KEEP THIS ASSOCIATION A LEADING AND VITAL PART OF THE PASO ROBLES WINE GRAPE COMMUNITY AT THE CURRENT FEE STRUCTURE WE NEED YOUR HELP. We do not want nor can we afford to further out-source our future. Your creativity and insights would be important in our efforts to build IGGPRA's position in this industry. Contact me or any Director for information on how you can join the Association's management team.

Hope to see you soon.

Warm regards,

Ken Bray, IGGPRA President

Social Chair-

If you missed the February 21 Italian Night Social, you missed a culinary masterpiece that featured our members own favorite Italian dishes. Special pastas, lasagna, meat balls and sauce, and an array antipasti highlighted the evenings' meal. A large array of member's wines accompanied the meal, and encouraged conversation. Our thanks to Michelle Hido and her husband for the table center pieces (Grissini and dipping oil), Becky Zelinski, Lara Liu and Doris Bray for coordinating the meal and staying to help clean up and Bob Fonarow for conducting the raffle.

Eighty-one members and guests attended the event at San Miguel Mission Parish Hall and were treated to a fun and fact filled evening. Apart from the food and wine, we experimented with an expanded raffle offering more opportunity to win prizes in addition to the regular 50/50. At this Social we raffled two tickets to the WiVi Central Coast Wine Industry Conference & Tradeshow on March 17 and 18 at the Paso Robles Event Center valued at \$250 and donated by Becky and Lowell Zelinski (Social attendees were also given a free pass to the Event Tradeshow) and 2 boxes of 6 IGGPRA logo stemmed wine glasses. We think attendees liked the expanded raffle and we plan to continue so don't miss the next Social.

This Social is also IGGPRA's Annual Meeting where election results for Directors that have volunteered to serve on IGGPRA's Board for the next 2 years are announced and an annual report of Association activities for 2014 is provided (See President's Message).

There is always something interesting happening at the IGGPRA Social so don't miss the next one. Save the date APRIL 18 at San Miguel Mission Parish Hall it will be a Fiesta of Fun and Food.





December Social It's Mexican Night for the April Social

Date: Saturday, April 18, 2015

Time: 6 to 9 pm

Place: San Miguel Parish Center, San Miguel

IGGPRA provides Appetizers and Salad

Members bring by last name

A-D: Dessert

E-Z: Your Favorite Mexican Dish

Bring table set-ups, wine glasses and wine to share.

Call Doris Bray at (805) 461-1391 or email Doris
at doris@kobravineyard.com or **RSVP** on IGGPRA's handy [online
RSVP form](#).

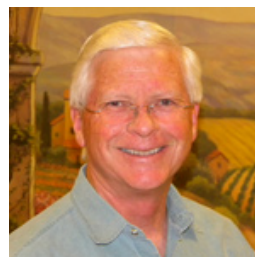


Merchant Associate Report

March/April 2015

Hello Everyone

As many of you know, Sharen Bloechl is coordinating the **2015 Directory**. As we did in 2014, many of our Associate Members will be placing Ads in the Directory to give our entire membership an easy reference for contacting them. Last year, we brought out a new Directory and have received nothing but great reviews on its layout, content and well placed Associate Ads. 22 of our Associate Members placed Ads and they all had excellent visibility.



For our Associate Members wanting to place an Ad, please make sure you reserve your space by March 23. Ad sizes and rates will be sent the week of February 23 to our Associates. Please contact me if you have any questions or need assistance. You can call me at 408 981 7099 or at joe.irick@yahoo.com

WiVi is also coming up on March 16-18, at the Paso Robles Event Center. IGGPRA will have our booth there for the Trade Show and will be pouring wines from our growers and winery members. Last year, we had a large crowd around our booth for the wine tasting and we got several new prospects for membership in the organization. If any of you have an interest in donating some of your wines(2-3 bottles max), please contact Michelle Hido or Steve Felton

All for now

Joe Irick

Board Member, Associate Member Coordinator



The **Winery Outreach Committee**

- Steve Felten (Chairman) Joe Irick & Serena Friedman

Contact Steve Felten for details. 805-712-1082
winesage@feltencellars.com



The Winery Webpage is now up and running, and we are adding wineries on a quarterly basis. Please contact Steve Felten by April 1st to sign up. The IGG member winery rack card for hotels and restaurants is being printed, and refers visitors to the winery webpage, so get in on the action now! There are a number of important winetastings and competitions coming up, and we will endeavor to keep you posted on a regular basis. Plans are being made for a member winery tasting in August; more details will follow. We have a list of wine writers and magazine contacts for submitting samples, and will email that info shortly.

April Seminar

Lunch Sponsored by EcoFlow



April 15, 2015 | 12pm—3pm

Tooth & Nail (Formerly Eagle Castle Winery)

3090 Anderson Road

Highway 46 West & Anderson Road

Topics

The Paso Robles Basin Groundwater Model - What it is and how it will be used
The New Farm Labor Contractor Law and Regulation - What they mean to you as a Vineyard Owner

Free for IGGPRA Members, \$20 fee for Non-Members

Space is limited.

RSVP for Seminar at 805-461-1391 or doris@kobravineyard.com

Topic 2 The New Farm Labor Contractor Law and Regulation - What they mean to you as a Vineyard Owner

IGGPRA Page 9

Welcome

New Members:

Growers

Westside Ranch

Andrea Huber

9480 Chimney Rock Road

Paso Robles, CA 93446

805-239-4209

andrea@westsideranch.com

Sereno Vista Vineyards

Jerry Reaugh

3200 Branch Rd.

Paso Robles, Ca 93446

805-239-4400

jerry@reaughj.com

Hollyhock Vineyard

Phil Pouliot

Lisa Neary

555 Hollyhock Ln

Templeton, CA 93465

805-434-8065

805-441-4203

ppouliot@gmail.com

Johansing Vineyard

Johansing Farms, LLC

Peter Johansing

Will Meyer

63305 Estrella Rd

San Miguel, CA 93451

peterjohansing@gmail.com

johansing@wildblue.net

johansingwines.com

Associates

Gold

Silver

Green Valley Farm Supply Inc

Jon Tracy

Christina Silva

PO Box 950

Gonzales, CA 93926

831-212-7116

831-595-3750

jon@gcvsinc.com

christina@gvfsinc.com

www.gvfsinc.com

Bronze

Friends

Nadine Sullivan

Audrey Lloyd

789 Angus St.

Paso Robles, Ca 93446

805-239-7714

nadinemsullivan@aol.com

Change from Grower to Friend

A John & Marilyn Berardo

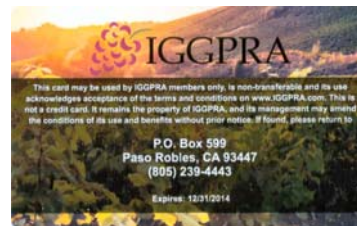
3510 Las Tablas-Willow Creek rd

Paso Robles, CA 93446

805-239-1495

805-712-7047

berardoestates@gmail.com



MEMBERSHIP MESSAGE

We are pleased with the overall acceptance of our efforts to bring you the programs and services you expect from IGGPRA. To date we have exceeded our membership expectations for grower, associate and friends renewals, which is a sign that the hard work of the Board of Directors is appreciated.

We set out this year with clear objectives of GROWING membership by increasing IGGPRA's awareness and image by participating in local trade shows, partnering with Chambers of Commerce, participating in the Paso Robles Pioneer Day and Holiday parades, producing a top quality Directory and intensifying our Public Relations efforts. Our second objective was to MAINTAIN current members by offering expanded services such as the winery website linkage program, online member discussion forum, and increasing seminar frequency. Finally, we took a hard look at revenue and expenses, developed realistic budgets and imposed controls to insure that we can continue focusing on objectives without a major change in fees.

We did adjust the Friends membership fee for 2015 on the premise that Friends received the same benefits as Growers and should, therefore, be charged the same. It is also likely that we will consider adjusting our Associate fee structure for 2016.

There are two deadlines to announce. First, if you have not paid your membership fee by now, you will not appear in the 2015 Membership Directory and if you have not returned your grower survey by the end of February your data will not be shown in the Member Statistics section of the Directory. Second, your 2015 Membership cards will be shipped in the next 10 days.

Again, thanks for joining the IGGPRA team.

NEW IGGPRA Membership Signs – **\$35 per sign – reserve your new sign today!**

IGGPRA is pleased to announce that the new Membership Signs are now available for purchase! This new design is more impactful, registers the IGGPRA name instantly and carries the logo that appears on our Website, newsletter and various mailings. The new sign is the essence of impactful simplicity. For those of you who are married to the old design please consider that "pretty" doesn't necessarily equate to successful communication and at normal highway speeds it is difficult to determine just what the sign represents. **To purchase a new Membership Sign, contact IGGPRA President Ken Bray by emailing bray@kobravineyard.com or calling (805) 459-6075.**



Meet Your Board of Directors 2015



Ken Bray—President
805-459-6075
bray@kobravineyard.com

Lowell Zelinski—Vice President & Seminars
805-434-3331
lowell@precisionaginc.com



Steve Felten - Winery Outreach Chair
805-712-1082
winesage@feltencellars.com

Bob Fonarow—Treasurer
805-227-4424
bobfonarow@att.net



Serena Friedman—Winery Outreach
818-266-9977
Foursistersranch@gmail.com

Michelle Hido—Special Events
310-795-7263
michellehido@gmail.com



Meet Your Board of Directors 2015



**Joe Irick—Associate Membership
& Winery Outreach**
805-237-2309
joe.irick@yahoo.com

Lara Liu—Secretary & Seminars
805-400-8099
larawilsonliu@gmail.com



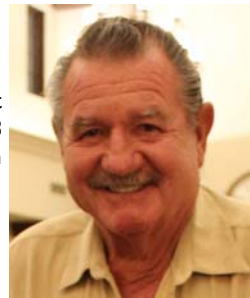
Angela Mitchell—Winery Outreach
805-239-8555 a
ngela@mittchella.com

Sharen Rund Bloechl—Newsletter
805-462-3489
usaindustries@pacbell.net



Mike Collins—Historian
805-462-0171

President Emeritus – Richard Sauret
805-467-3998
sauretvines@gmail.com



EDITORIAL OPINION:

The Department of Water Resources is going to require a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) be formed for many groundwater basins in California including the Paso Robles Basin. There will be many entities (counties, cities, CSD's) involved in this process and will mostly likely be members of the GSA. Currently the rural portion of the basin is "managed" for the San Luis Obispo Flood Control District (FCD) – which is essentially the Board of Supervisors (BOS).

The IGGPRA Board of Directors, at their March meeting heard a presentation by two of our grower members (Jerry Reaugh and Bob Brown) regarding formation of a Water District for a portion of the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin that is required by the State of California under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA).

IGGPRA Board of Directors occasionally provides opportunities for members to present ideas and raise awareness of issues that we feel are of vital interest to our membership. If, after hearing the ideas and issues, we feel that the importance of the subject is such that membership is informed in order to make a considered decision, we will do so.

Such was the case at the March Board meeting.

It was made clear that the State of California has mandated that the Paso Robles Ground Water Basin be sustainably managed and the San Luis Obispo Board of Supervisors is currently considering how to do this. There are apparently several options, 2 of which involve local management and 1 default option in which the State manages the Basin. There are, I suspect, plusses and minuses for each option and while individual Board members may have their own opinion about which option best serves their needs, the decision of which option will be employed currently resides with the Board of Supervisors. (See Lowell's Corner Article "Times – They are a Changing Part II" in the November, 2014 Newsletter. You can request an email of this newsletter from Editor Sharen Bloechl at usaindustries@pacbell.net or 805-462-3489) or by going to this webpage.

<http://www.pasorobleswinegrapes.com/documents/2014NovemberDecemberNewsletter.pdf>

If Supervisors vote to send the request to LAFCO (Local Agency Formation Commission) they will begin to develop provisions for a water district managed locally. This is likely to happen as the BOS has directed staff to develop such a request. But, it is by no means certain, as at least 2 members of the BOS apparently do not support the Water District formation.

If the BOS vote to refer the request to the San Luis Obispo County Flood Control District (FCD) the Basin will be managed essentially by the Board of Supervisors. Just to keep things interesting, the boundaries of the proposed Paso Robles water district do not coincide with the basin boundaries (a good portion of the basin is in Monterey County) so some other entity will most likely have to be assigned the duty of representing rural residents outside the water district boundaries

Continued on next page

Opinion continued:

If Supervisors do not vote either option the State Water Resources Control Board will set up a GSA and a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) for us.

Clearly, the Board of Supervisors has an important decision to make that will impact our future as growers and residents of the Paso Robles area and we encourage you make your views known by contacting the Supervisor in your District. There contact information is in each of the newsletters and is also here: <http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/bos.htm>

Additional information regarding these options is available by contacting IGGPA Board member Lowell Zelinski at 805-286-6544 or lowell@precisionagconsulting.com

Time is of the essence. We urge you to get informed and make your voice heard.

Ken Bray
President
IGGPRA

San Luis Obispo County Supervisors

- District 1 Frank Mecham fmecham@co.slo.ca.us



805-781-5450
F: 805-781-1350

- District 2 Bruce Gibson bgibson@co.slo.ca.us



805-781-5450
F: 805-781-1350

- District 3 Adam Hill ahill@co.slo.ca.us



805-791-5450
F: 805-781-1350

- District 4 Lynn Compton lcompton@co.slo.ca.us



805-781-5450
F: 805-781-1350

- District 5 Debbie Arnold darnold@co.slo.ca.us



805-781-5450
F: 805-781-1350



Bold Innovation Vintage Quality



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Our goal is to keep striving to provide optimum growing conditions and superior quality products for our growing partners. That comes through innovation, day after day. It's what we do best, and it's just the beginning for many more exciting innovations to come.

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805-237-8914

SANTA ROSA
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www.VintageNurseries.com | 800-499-9019 | [Facebook](#)

Serving the Wine, Table Grape and Raisin Industries



Michelle Hido—Special Events Chair

We had a great turnout for our Italian Night Social at the San Miguel Mission—we had fun decorating the tables with little flags, sparkling waters, mixed olives, breads with oil and balsamic vinegar dips!

Now we're looking forward to the upcoming year's events like the WiVi Conference and Tradeshow. During the Tradeshow, Wednesday March 18th, we'll be in booth 634 pouring wines from fellow members. If you want some of your wine poured, let me know, we'd love some!

Also, congratulations to all who entered and won awards at the San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition!



The Central Coast Wine Industry Conference & Tradeshow (WiVi) is the only comprehensive wine and viticulture symposium and trade show on the Central Coast. The two-day event includes two days of sessions and a one-day tradeshow that will bring winemakers, wine grape growers and winery owners and managers together to experience an unprecedented collection of trade show booths, educational seminars, product demonstrations and networking opportunities.

The sessions have a regional focus and will address topics on viticulture, wine making and DTC/winery marketing addressed by today's top industry leaders.

The WiVi tradeshow will feature nearly 170 companies showcasing hundreds of new products and innovative ideas, making WiVi the largest wine industry tradeshow on the Central Coast. Attendees will have an opportunity to learn about the latest tools, techniques and technologies at the sessions and from product demonstrations on the tradeshow floor.

Stephen C Hovey, Accountancy

30 year resident of Paso Robles. Married, 3 children, 7 grandchildren. graduated from university of Southern California. Practicing as a CPA in California since [1974](#). My office is at 246 12th St in Paso Robles with a staff of four. We provide tax, accounting, and business advising and consulting services. I currently service a number of clients in the vineyard and winery business and welcome new business. I assisted in IGGPRA gaining non profit status with the IRS and provide tax services for IGGPRA without charge.

Stephen C. Hovey, CPA
805-239-3005

A note from your new Newsletter Editor:

- Please let me know when your ad sells so I can remove it in a timely manner.
- **All submissions** are **due** by the end of week following a social.
- For submission of articles, flyer inserts, etc., you can reach me at: 805-462-3489 or fax: 805-466-5466
PO Box 2288, Atascadero, CA 93423
Email: usaindustries@pacbell.net
- If you'd like your vineyard highlighted in the newsletter, please send me your story and pictures



Sharen Rund Bloechl

NEWSLETTER NOTE:

- In regards to your Newsletter being emailed to you in pdf format, please note that if you do not have an email address, you will continue to receive you newsletter in this format.
- Article, insert, etc. submission deadlines/cutoff: 1 week after each Social.

WANT 5 BIZ ADS

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2012 MALBEC BULK WINE AVAILABLE

QTY AVAILABLE: 900 Gallons
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Wally Murray 805-400-0451

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610-0413 r.shiffer98@gmail.com

NEEDED/WANTED:

Lee & Associates Real Estate Specialists

Bob Fonarow
1625 Leah Way, Paso Robles
93446 805-227-4424

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Vic Butera would like to find someone to take
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and his fruit trees [golden delicious apples, pears
and pomegranates—for more information call Vic
at 805-467-9732

Worms, Disease Suppression and the Science Behind It.

While Darwin's publication "*The Formation of Vegetable Mould through the Action of Worms, with Observations on their Habits*" in 1881 is the first in-depth look at worms (as far as I know), their structure and behavior, the unique qualities of their castings have become a focus of scientific study in recent years.

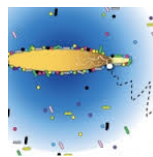
An interesting study comes out of Cornell University, where a group of dedicated microbiologists have been looking for the "how" certain things happen when vermicompost is added to soil. Specifically, here is what they want to know: How does worm composted dairy manure protect plants from disease? This is most intriguing to me because the worm food used at Black Diamond VermiCompost **IS** dairy cow manure! So, here's the study in simple, easy-to-understand language:

Vermicomposting or worm composting transforms manure into an amendment for crop production that can prevent diseases caused by seed infecting pathogens like Pythium. The goal of the scientists is to understand **how** vermicomposts protect plants from diseases. They are attempting to answer this question by studying **how** the development of the pathogen is disrupted. In other words, why don't the bad guys make the kill? How does the seed win the battle?

Pathogen defined is "A bacterium, virus, or other microorganism that can cause disease," commonly called a "germ." Sporangia are pathogen structures, required for plant infection. The sporangia produce another structure, call vesicles. The vesicles make zoospores, the bad guys...spores that infect and kill things, like seeds. When zoospores are released into the soil, they swim and head toward the seed. How do they know where the seeds are? That explanation can get really crazy and complicated; let's just say the zoospores detect the presence of the plant using chemical cues released from the seeds. Once the zoospores reach the seed, they germinate, penetrate and kill the seed. We might think of this like a computer virus...the hacker (sporangia) writes the code (vesicle) to create the virus (zoospores). The virus is released to the internet, hits your email address book and infects your computer, and bad things happen.

Now, let's put the same sporangia in soil that is amended with vermicompost. The sporangia seem to be unaffected, meaning they produce the same vesicles, but this time...in the presence of vermicompost, fewer vesicles form! But wait, the vesicles that DO form produce few to no healthy zoospores (the seed killers). Those zoospores that do get released are unable to locate the seed! Why? Because vermicompost microbes alter the chemical cues, making them unattractive to zoospores. The end result is that zoospores never reach the seed and infection is prevented! Sort of like how the anti-virus program works on your computer!

Microbes surround and protect the seed, altering chemical signals



Knowing that microbiologists are continually learning the how's and why's is important to many in the plant and soil world. I keep an ever-growing stack of information and list of links on hand...yours for the asking. If you yearn to learn more of what the scientific community has studied and documented on *The Effects of Vermicompost on Plant Growth, Suppression of Plant Parasitic Nematodes and Arthropod Pests with Vermicompost Teas*, and several others, they can be found at www.blackdiamondvermicompost.com or call me at 805.674.0194. Healthy soil, healthy plants, healthy food...it's no longer a trend, it's a growing paradigm shift.

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IGGPRA Mission Statement

The Independent Grape Growers of the Paso Robles Area promote the growing of high quality wine grapes through education, networking and farming resources.

Our Core Beliefs

Promote sustainable agriculture, respect for our natural resources and the production of high quality wine grapes through grower education and cooperative interaction.

Provide a forum for the review of issues affecting wine grape farmers and the wine industry, as well as afford networking opportunities to grower members and associates.

Facilitate and encourage ongoing education and skills in the development of Viticulture throughout the Central Coast, via information sharing, fundraisers, seminars and other related activities.

Act as ambassadors for the overall success of the Central Coast Wine Industry, through collaboration with complimentary grower and wine associations, along with Civic and Government Offices.

“Great wines start in the vineyard”

CAVEAT: Articles presented in this newsletter should not be construed as a recommendation by the author, IGGPRA Editor, or IGGPRA; but rather as a source of information!

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Let's Cook

Linguine with Shrimp Scampi

Ingredients

1 tablespoon kosher salt plus 1 1/2 teaspoons
3/4 pound linguine
3 tablespoons unsalted butter
2 1/2 tablespoons good olive oil
1 1/2 tablespoons minced garlic (4 cloves)
1 pound large shrimp (about 16 shrimp), peeled and deveined
1/4 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
1/3 cup chopped fresh parsley leaves
1/2 lemon, zest grated
1/4 cup freshly squeezed lemon juice (2 lemons)
1/4 lemon, thinly sliced in half-rounds
1/8 teaspoon hot red pepper flakes



Directions

In a large pot of boiling water, add 1 tablespoon of salt and the linguine, and cook for 7 to 10 minutes, or according to the directions on the package.

Meanwhile, in another large (12-inch), heavy-bottomed pan, melt the butter and olive oil over medium-low heat. Add the garlic. Saute for 1 minute. Be careful, the garlic burns easily! Add the shrimp, 1 1/2 teaspoons of salt, and the pepper and saute until the shrimp have just turned pink, about 5 minutes, stirring often. Remove from the heat, add the parsley, lemon zest, lemon juice, lemon slices, and red pepper flakes. Toss to combine.

When the pasta is done, drain the cooked linguine and then put it back in the pot. Immediately add the shrimp and sauce, toss well, and serve.

Enjoy!



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