



**Independent Grape Growers
Paso Robles Area**

Volume 14, Issue 4 President- Lowell Zelinski Editor-Sharen Rund Bloechl Bloechl July-August 2016

Chili Cook Off was a Four Alarm Success

By Becky Zelinski

The heat was on at IGGPRA's first Chili Cook Off, held at the Terra Mia Vineyards on June 18. The weather was a little warm but nowhere near as HOT as the chili competition. As the sun began to set, the evening cooled as the sun went down, making for a lovely evening.

Twelve contestants fired up their crock pots and showcased their culinary talents to more than 50 people who attended the event.

There were two categories for the chili: creative and traditional and there were six entries in each category. The participants in the traditional category were: Maxine Perkins, Jim Bond, Wayne and Sharen Bloechl, Field Gibson, Vickie Lee and Reddy Reddy. The creative chili cooks were Gina Flores, Meredith Voboril, Mike Lovett, Renee Callahan and Michael Gil.

Guests were able to sample each chili and rate each one individually, then cast their ballots.

Taking first place in the traditional category was Maxine Perkins with her Goldilocks Chili Con Carne. Maxine was a guest of Lowell and Becky Zelinski, and also an event volunteer. Second place went to Jim Bond for his Beef Chuck Chili. Gina Flores won first place for her Three Bean, Three Pepper Tomatillo, Tri-Tip chili, and Renee Callahan took second place for her White Chicken Chili in the creative category.

The first place winners won cook and go crockpots filled with fun, chili-related gift items. Second place winners received an old-fashioned stock pot filled with cooking gadgets and goodies.

In the Rhone wine competition, Roberta Weideman took first place in the red category for a 2010 Bella Colina Tennat, and Bill Livingston won first place in the white category for his 2014 Viognier.

After the competition, Bill Livingston (volunteer) grilled up delicious hamburgers and hot dogs that were served with an array of condiments. The entire evening was set to a fun and festive, chili pepper theme and many guests got to take home a red hot chili pepper centerpiece.

Don't forget to mark your calendars for the remaining two mixers for 2016: The Harvest Hoe-down at the Loading Chute on August 27 and the Casino Night Fundraiser at the Paso Robles Inn on November 12.

Thanks to IGGPRA members Rich and Tracy for allowing us to use their beautiful, new event facility. IGGPRA guests were some of the first to get a peek of the new venue. The secluded setting has a majestic waterfall that makes its way through a magnificent stream bed which cuts through the main terrace to a lake surrounded by oaks and willows.

Also, a big thank you to volunteers: Maxine Perkins, Bill Livingston and Dan Hido, and all of the board members who helped make the event a success. This event was popular and fun and IGGPRA hopes to make it an annual event.



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805-467-3998 sauretvines@gmail.com

2016 IGGPRA CALENDAR

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

Aug 27	Hoe Down	Loading Chute
Nov 12	Casino Night	Paso Robles Inn

Planned Seminars for 2016:

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

Look for more exciting Seminars in the months to come:

Check your mail for the next Seminar!

New IGGPRA Phone number

805-291-4204

New IGGPRA Phone number

AUCTION ITEMS NEEDED FOR FUND-RAISER

Silent and live auction items are needed for the Casino Night Fundraiser to be held November 12 at the Paso Robles Inn. This event will be raising funds for a local charity, which has not yet been determined.

If you are interested in donating an item, please contact Michelle Hido at (310) 795-7263 or MichelleHido@gmail.com or Becky Zelinski at (805) 286-6529 or Becky@PrecisionAgConsulting.com. Your donations will be tax deductible. More details are coming soon.

We will also be forming an event committee to assist with securing donations and planning the event. If you are interested in serving on the committee, please call Michelle or Becky.

July 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 Pops over
3	4 Independence Day	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						

August 2016

	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 Social
28	29	30	31			

President' Message—Lowell Zelinski



June 2016 Presidents Message

The Good, the Bad and the Ugly

The Good:

As I am writing this message, Paso Robles is experiencing a moderate heat wave with maximum air temperatures between 100 to 110 depending on location. The heat wave is expected to continue for at least a few more days. The good news is that most vineyards seem to be surviving fairly well. The heat has slowed growth, which in many situations was a bit too vigorous anyway.

Additionally, this heat helps to slow or stop the growth of Powdery Mildew (PM). This chart shows the Powdery Mildew Index (PMI), which is a measure of how conducive the weather has been for the growth of PM. The higher the value, the more favorable the conditions are for the growth of PM. Over the last week or so, the PMI has gone from high to low and this is a good thing.

The Bad:

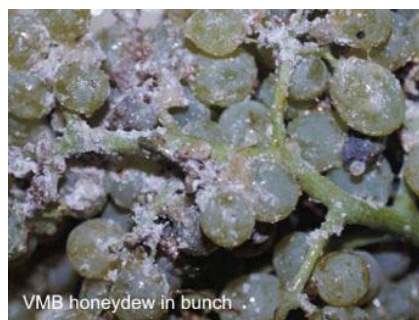
As I have mentioned in the past, one of the worst insect pests of grapes in the Paso



Robles area are Vine Mealybugs (VMB). They can cause severe damage to almost all parts of a grapevine. Maybe most importantly, it can render the clusters unmarketable. The picture shows the level of damage to a cluster that VMB can cause:

Most wineries would reject that load of fruit and send it back to you. VMB infestations are hard to see in their early stages because they live under the bark on the trunk and cordons. A good "potential" indicator of VMB is the presence of ants crawling up and down the trunk. The ants move the VMB around and "protect" them from predators.

In the past week I have found VMB in three vineyards that I work with and have heard from the neighbors that they also have them. They can be controlled in conventionally farmed vineyards, but as far as I know there are no good "organic" insecticides against VMB. According to Chris Browning, PCA with Buttonwillow Warehouse here in Paso, the only thing it takes to control VMB is MONEY and lots of it! The photos show the extent of the deforestation. It is extensive and I am not sure they are done. They are currently under a "Stop Work Order" from SLO County Planning, however that doesn't mean they will not be able to continue with their vineyard development.



Continued next page

The Ugly:

Unless you don't live in the Paso area or have been hiding under a rock, you can't have missed the stories about Justin Vineyards and Winery denuding an old growth Oak forest on a 380 acres property they own on the west side of Paso. Additionally, they are creating a 20 acre-foot reservoir for irrigation water. This is a pretty good size reservoir, and one of the only reasons to build one that large, is so you can pump low capacity wells 24 hours a day – 7 days a week to give you adequate water to irrigate much of the vineyard at the same time.

The photos show the extent of the deforestation. It is extensive and I am not sure they are done. They are currently under a "Stop Work Order" from SLO County Planning, however that doesn't mean they will not be able to continue with their vineyard development.



To be fair, Justin probably hasn't violated any laws. It is perfectly legal to remove any and ALL vegetation, including oak trees for farming purposes. It is also legal to pump as much water as you can as long as you are putting it to a reasonable and beneficial use. If your neighbor's wells run dry – that is their problem. **The problem is this is not neighborly, nor an example of environmental stewardship.**

People come to visit the Paso wine country for various reasons and one major reason is to enjoy the "relatively" undisturbed nature of Paso's west side where oak forests can be seen and appreciated. It adds to the experience. Justin reduced that pleasure – shame on you Justin and the (not so) Wonderful Company.

BREAKING NEWS – As of this morning (6/25) I read that the Resnick's (owners of the Wonderful Company) are donating this property. The article did not say to who.

Download A Winegrowers' Guide to Navigating Risks today

Learn how sustainable winegrowing practices can help to mitigate risk in the vineyard, winery and marketplace. Topics include drought mitigation, water conservation/quality, soil and air quality, pest management, employees, energy efficiency, severe weather and natural disaster risks, insurance and business planning and more.

<http://www.sustainablewinegrowing.org/docs/>

Farmer Worker Overtime Bill Gets New Life – Your Help Needed!

Friday, June 17th

Written by Angela Mitchell

Agriculture celebrated a significant legislative victory on June 2 when the California Assembly defeated AB 2757 (ag overtime bill). The defeat of AB 2757 was the culmination of a concerted effort by farmers across the state to urge the defeat of this bill that was a bad deal for farmers and farmworkers. Regrettably, the author of AB 2757, Assemblywoman Lorena Gonzalez (D-San Diego), has resurrected the bill in another form – and California's farmers must once again go to battle.

Through legislative sleight-of-hand, Gonzalez was able to magically reach across the boundary that divides the Assembly from the Senate and amend another bill, AB 1066, which had been idling in the Senate Education Committee. Using legislative tactic referred to as "gut-and-amend," Gonzalez was able to delete the contents of AB 1066 without any vote of the education committee, which had jurisdiction over AB 1066, and insert the contents of the recently defeated AB 2757.

The newly reconstituted ag overtime bill, AB 1066, now awaits referral to the Senate Committee on Labor and Industrial Relations.

AB 2757 was defeated on the Assembly floor by a margin of three votes. When Gonzalez resurrected the bill as AB 1066, she single-handedly nullified the Assembly's vote, making clear that the labor union agenda should trump the collective wisdom of the Assembly.

Check out
<http://www.cawg.org/docuserfiles/files/AB1066-Letter%20to%20CAWG%20members.pdf>
to read a the complete letter written by California Association of Wine Grape Growers (CAWG) President John Aguirre to the entire CAWG membership.

CALL TO ACTION: Please reach out to your state senator and assembly member as soon as possible to inform them of what has transpired. Please keep the fight going by making phone calls, sending emails, and coming to Sacramento to talk to legislators. Thank you.

State Senator Bill Monning – San Luis Obispo District Office

1026 Palm Street, Suite 201

San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

<http://sd17.senate.ca.gov/send-e-mail>

Phone: (805) 549-3784

Fax: (805) 549-3779

35th District Assemblymember Katcho Achadjian – San Luis Obispo District Office

1150 Osos Street, Suite #207

San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

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(805) 549-3381

(805) 549-3400 fax

30th District Assemblymember Luis A. Alejo – Salinas District Office

100 West Alisal Street, Suite 134

Salinas, CA 93901

<https://lcmspubcontact.lc.ca.gov/PublicLCMS/ContactPopup.php?district=AD30>

(831) 759-8676

(831) 759-2961 Fax

A photograph of Joe Irick, Vice President of Independent Grape Growers - Paso Robles Area, standing in a vineyard. He is wearing a dark polo shirt, white shorts, and a dark cap with "IGGPRA" on it. The background shows rows of grapevines and some houses in the distance.

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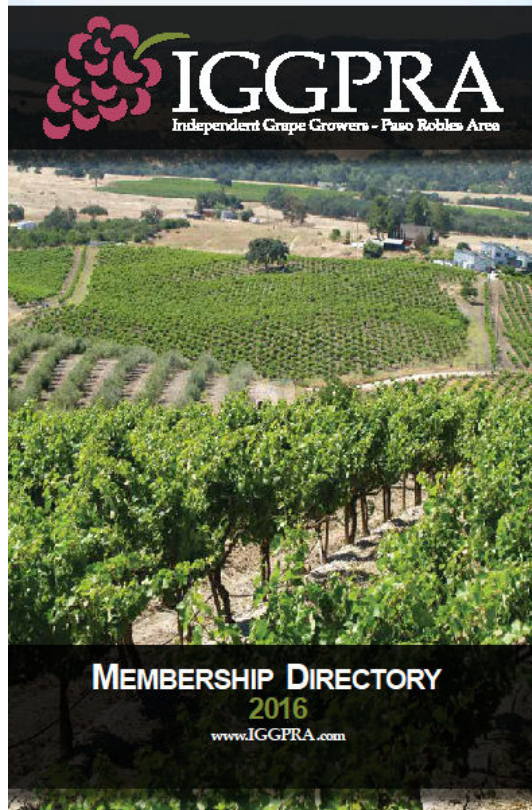
Dear IGGPRA Members:

Your new, 2016 Membership Directory has been mailed out. DID YOU RECEIVE YOURS? If you have not received one yet, or if you would like an extra copy, please contact our Marketing Office at 805-239-4443 Monday through Thursday from 8:30am - 2:30pm or email Caitlin@arandcompany.com.

Please make sure to leave your name, vineyard or business name, telephone number, mailing address and email address so that we may process your request quickly and efficiently.

For those of you who have already received your copy, please let us know if you would like to see any changes for future directories.

Thank you. We look forward to seeing you at an upcoming seminar or social and look forward to serving you.



Welcome New Members:

Bird Gard
Rick Willis
PO Box 1690
270 E Sun Ranch Dr
Sisters, OR 97759
888-332-2328
503-449-4829
rwillis@birdgard.com
www.birdgard.com



Membership and Associate Update

Hello Everyone

July is here and we have already experienced severe heat, which we normally don't see until late in the month. For our grapes, any clusters exposed to afternoon sun during the heat wave have probably turn into "raisins". And, pretty soon, we will start to see flocks of birds coming to feast on the grapes when brix go up.

Many of the issues we will be facing in our vineyards over the next few months, before harvest, can be mitigated by contacting one or more of our Associate Members. When you look in your Directory, you will see Associate Members that do nutrient analysis, provide chemicals for the field, bird netting, bird control equipment, general vineyard supplies and many more things to help you get through another growing cycle.

IGGPRA has the widest and finest Associate Member group of any grape association in California. They are part of our organization to provide us with goods and services for a successful harvest. With their help, we are on our way to one of the best harvests in last few years.

Thank you Associate Members !!
joe.irick@yahoo.com

408-981-7099



SAVE THE DATE

for the "new" IGGPRA Industry Mixers

- **Harvest Hoedown at The Loading Chute: August 26, 2016, 6 pm – 10 pm**
- **Casino Night at The Paso Robles Inn: November 12, 2016, 6 pm – 9:30 pm**

MIXER SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Associate Members: If you are interested in supporting the organization while gaining recognition for your products and services, sponsoring an industry mixer is a great way to do it! If you'd like more information about these valuable opportunities, please write to Becky at becky@precisionagconsulting.com or give her a call at (805) 239-1270.



PREMIER QUALITY FROM NORTH AMERICA'S LEADING VINE NURSERY

Leaders raise the bar in everything they do and that's why Vintage Nurseries continues to set the industry standards for vine cleanliness, improved irrigation methods and product selection. In the last year alone, Vintage has begun work on a new, state-of-the-art greenhouse facility, changed from wood to eco-friendly recycled plastic storage bins and callous boxes, and introduced new sanitization techniques.

From our 2010 Protocol mother blocks, to our advanced testing lab, the innovative new Vintage Root Sock and more, Vintage Nurseries strives to provide the cleanest, healthiest vines in the industry. It's how we lead. It's how we grow.



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<p>800.499.9019 VintageNurseries.com</p>		



Mark Your Calendar!



November 11, 2016

Mid-State Fairgrounds
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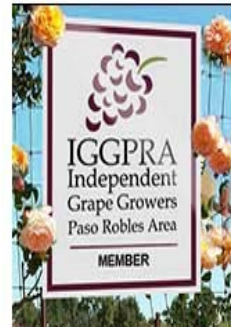
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NEW IGGPRA Membership Signs – \$35 per sign – reserve your new sign today!

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.**



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
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WANT & Biz ADS

- - -

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AFeliscian@jimssupply.com
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joe.irick@yahoo.com

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or joe.irick@yahoo.com



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- - -

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NEEDED/WANTED:

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”

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.

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!

Hi IGGPRA Members!!

Remember—PayPal is available on the IGGPRA website.



Check it out at our [website's homepage](#)

Let's Cook

As soon as we get them, the award winning Chili Recipes will be up on the blog

People raved about this salad at several of the mixers—here it is, courtesy of Beck Zelinski:

Field Greens Fiesta Salad with a Chipotle Vinaigrette

Serves 8-10 people

SALAD

12 oz. Spring Mix

$\frac{3}{4}$ C. Blue Cheese (I used Gorgonzola)

$\frac{3}{4}$ C. toasted pecans coarsely chopped

$\frac{3}{4}$ C. dried cranberries

Wash, dry and toss 12 ounces of spring mix in transfer to a large clean bowl. Set aside. Just before serving, add the blue cheese, pecans and cranberries.

CHIPOTLE VINAIGRETTE

2 cloves garlic

1 small Chipotle pepper in Adobo + 1-2 t. of the Adobo Sauce

2 t. spicy or deli mustard

$\frac{1}{4}$ C. fresh squeezed lime juice

$\frac{1}{4}$ C. white balsamic vinegar

$\frac{1}{4}$ C. seasoned rice vinegar

$\frac{1}{2}$ t. salt

1.5 C. extra virgin olive oil or olive/canola/grapeseed oil blend

Add the garlic to a food processor and pulse until it is semi-finely chopped. Next, add the remaining ingredients EXCEPT for the olive oil. With the food processor running, slowly add the oil in a steady stream. Scrape down the sides of the bowl and process until well blended.

Add $\frac{3}{4}$ C. to the greens and toss. Add the blue cheese, pecans and cranberries and lightly toss. Add more vinaigrette to taste. If plating the salad, drizzle extra vinaigrette just before serving.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

In order to make the 2016 mixers a success, we are recruiting volunteers for the 2016 calendar year. Volunteers will be asked to assist at 1-2 events during the year (based on their availability). If you'd like to be placed on the volunteer list, please write to: becky@precisionagconsulting.com or call (805) 239-1270. Please include your full name, email address, phone number and the best time to reach you.

New IGGPRA Phone number

805-291-4204

New IGGPRA Phone number



% Sharen Rund Bloechl
PO BOX 2288
Atascadero, CA 93423



www.pasorobleswinegrapes.com
www.iggptra.com