



President's Message

Mother Nature has been busy this year with all of this wonderful rain. The hills are vibrant with spring color, there is no doubt that we live in a beautiful place. What a great time to call your friends and take a drive through the foothills to visit our local wineries.

Our **February General Meeting** was very enlightening. Frank Alfieri was there to help us understand the importance of sulfite levels in wine and many wine makers were able to have their wine tested.

The **April General Meeting** is Wednesday, April 8 at 7pm at Secret Ravine Winery. (Thanks to Ron & Vicky Morris.) We have a very interesting evening planned with something for everyone. Professional photographer, Steve Hubbard will talk about outdoor photography and taking photos to help market your vineyard and winery. Growers and winemakers will have an opportunity to connect. Growers this is your opportunity to present crop information to potential winemakers. (Contact Dave Brockman at 916-759-1291.) And of course thanks to Lisa Mann, we will have an abundance of fabulous raffle items.

PCWGA Annual Wine Bus Tour – Saturday, April 12

Our annual spring wine Bus Trip is traveling to Fair Play. We will visit Oakstone, Perry creek and Latchum. Get your application in right away, we had a waiting list last year.

VOLUNTEERS, WE NEED YOU!

We have several fun-filled events on the horizon where we need your help.

Wine Booths at the Fairs: **Placer County Fair**, June 25-28 and **Gold Country Fair**, Sept 10-13, always fun, the fairs are not only wonderful opportunities to promote our Placer County wine growing region, but the profits we make off the these events help to fund many of our activities such as our general meetings, the Home Winemakers, and the Holiday Gala. Please contact Art Mallo if you can help, his number is 916-759-0888. Sign-up sheets will also be available at the April meeting.

Fourth Annual Home Winemakers Competition and BBQ – Saturday, June 13

This event gets bigger and better every year. Spread the word to your winemaker friends. **We are looking for volunteers** to help with wine judging, recording, set-up, clean-up, pouring, and more. Please contact any board member to sign up or sign up at the April General Meeting.

Keep in mind that the PCWGA board is here to support you. Let us know if you have ideas for events or meeting topics that sound interesting.

If you haven't paid your dues yet, please do so. You can go to our website to download the membership application and instructions. (www.placerwineandgrape.org)

Cathy Mikles, President

April General Meeting

Wednesday, April 8 at 7pm

Secret Ravine Winery

Please bring Wine and as always, appetizers are appreciated.

Our program includes two fabulous topics with something for everyone!

Principles of Outdoor Photography

Professional photographer Steve Hubbard is the owner of Gold Country Images. He is a local photographer. He is the author of "Historic Powerhouses of the Sierra Nevada," who documents the history and construction of pioneering hydroelectric sites in California. He has had articles and photos in Sierra Heritage Magazine, as well as had displays at Sunset Oaks gallery in Auburn, and the Icehouse gallery in Bakersfield. He will have photos of local vineyard settings on display at the meeting and he will conduct a discussion of the principles of outdoor photography and how they can be used for marketing purposes.

Wine Grower meet Winemaker

Are you a Grape-grower with beautiful grapes in the field and unsure who will buy them??

Are you a winemaker searching for a reliable local source of grapes for the fall??

Now is the time to do something about it and avoid that last minute stress!

Spring is here and bud break is upon us. Our Placer County Grape Growers have diligently pruned their vines and readied their vineyards to produce this year's crop. Savvy winemakers know now is the time to start thinking about sourcing their grapes for the fall. At our next general meeting we aim to get PCWGA grape growers together with our PCWGA winemakers to help facilitate this relationship.

Grape growers are encouraged to bring their crop information, such as varieties available, estimated crop size, viticulture practice info, and wine samples from their vineyards. Winemakers will have the chance to discuss their needs with the growers and start the process to contract their crop. Our aim is to help the winemaker and grape grower work together throughout the season and build long term relationships that help both the grower and the winemaker. We all know that happy growers and winemakers make better wine!

Avoid that last minute scramble!! Interested growers please contact David Brockman (916-759-1291) so that we may provide table space for you at the next meeting.

Excerpt from Tasting Room Etiquette

by Benjamin Bicaïs info@1stop-wine.com

In a winery's tasting room, white wines are generally tasted first, followed by reds, and then dessert wines. Within these categories, lighter-bodied wines precede fuller-bodied ones. Water and crackers may be offered to cleanse the palate between each wine. Correct wine etiquette does not dictate that you must finish every glass. Winery tasting rooms provide jars to dispose of excess wine. Do not feel that you need to sample every wine offered- taste what appeals to you.

If you ask for a second tasting of a particular wine, it is in good taste to buy a bottle. Many wineries charge tasting fees which are generally applied to any purchase. It is not mandatory that you buy wine; purchase only what you desire. That being said, if you have made an appointment at a small winery, it is in good taste to make a purchase. Proper wine etiquette dictates that you not bring children to a tasting room.

Excerpt from Playing Tourist

by Sheri Sauter Morano <http://www.wines-france.us/>

I've always found that expressing interest in the wines and asking a lot of questions will usually result in better service in a tasting room. When the pourer knows that you are excited and interested in the wines that he/she is serving you, they are more likely to be chatty and even sometimes, to open up a more unusual or special bottle for you to taste.

When it comes to tasting the wines, there are lots of dos and don'ts. Don't gulp your wine, do savor and enjoy it. I recommend that you jot down some notes to yourself – it will help you remember later the wines that you liked the most. Even if the wine is horrible, be sensitive in how you express your opinion. You can be honest, but be honest with tact. If the winemaker is pouring you his best wine and you hate it, he might want your feedback, but try to make it constructive – this is his wine, his baby that you are about to criticize, so do it carefully.

Tentative Dates for Upcoming Meetings and Events

General Meetings:

- April 8 ~ Secret Ravine Winery
- April 18 (Wine Tasting Trip –Fair Play)
- June 13 (Home Winemaker Competition & B-B-Q)
- August 9 ~ Golf Tournament at the Ridge in Auburn
- August 12 ~ Pescatore Winery
- October 28 ~ Flower Farm
- December 4 (Holiday Gala & Annual Meeting)

CLASSIFIED ADS

Wine Judges Wanted: Looking for Wine Judges to assist in the Home Wine Makers Competition please contact Doug Geiger 916-652-6429 or Zane Dobson 916-834-0565

FOR SALE: 4-5 tons of "old clone" ZINFANDEL for 2009 harvest. Dick Stallman 916-791-1104 Cell 916-396-1814.

FOR SALE: 6-7 tons of "quality" CABERNET FRANC for 2009 harvest. Jim O'Conner cell 916-425-6090

FREE ADVERTISING

If you would like to advertise any wine or grape related information, programs, classes or items for sale, email that information to placerville@gmail.com.

NEW 2009 Board of Directors

President – Cathy Mikles	530 392-3649
V. Pres. – Doug Geiger	916 652-6429
Treasurer – Zane Dobson	916 834-0565
Secretary – Renae Messamore	916 316-4227
Past Pres. Dave Wegner	916 663-1422
Ed/Programs – Dave Brockman	916 759-1291
Community Inv. – Lisa Mann	530 889-2824
Web Coordinator – Michael Duarte	916 652-8998
Scholarship Awards - George Smith	916 434-1937



PLACER COUNTY
WINE & GRAPE
ASSOCIATION

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**Membership Renewal
Due**