

**Year-end Report
Virginia Wine Board, 25 July 2016**

Title: Viticulture Research and Extension Associate

Principal Investigator:

Tony K. Wolf
Professor of Viticulture
AHS Jr. Agricultural Research and Extension Center
595 Laurel Grove Rd., Winchester VA 22602
(540) 869-2560 extn. 18 vitis@vt.edu

Type of Project: Extension
Amount funded: \$8,000

Objective:

To increase the level of viticultural research and extension program support to grape and wine producers in Virginia and to help meet the research and extension needs of an expanding industry.

Progress:

The practical goal of this project was to expand the extension outreach of the viticultural program conducted from the AHS Jr. AREC in Winchester. The Wine Board has supported travel and miscellaneous research expenses to the tune of \$8,000/year over the past 5 years. Most of this funding supports the travel of our research/extension associate, Tremain Hatch, while some is also used to support travel by the PI, Tony Wolf. Mr. Hatch's Extension activities over the past fiscal year (July 2015-June 2016) were as follows:

Specific Activities

- Conducted 61 individual vineyard visits to help grape growers assess vineyard site suitability, review existing vineyard operations, and trouble-shoot vineyard problems (see travel log, starting page 3).
- Organized and participated in sixteen vineyard meetings across the mid-Atlantic, including:
 - Attended a VA Cooperative Extension fruit growers tour of Frederick county VA [16 July] and gave an overview of wine grape production in Northern Virginia.
 - Gave overview of grape growing to audience at SOVA Agricultural Experience [19 Sept.]

- Gave an overview of the Virginia wine industry to Virginia Legislators, highlighting the industry's preparations and response to impacts of climate change [19 Sept.]
- Organized and participated in three successful new grower workshops: 11 November at the AHS AREC, 28 January at the VVA winter technical meeting, and 13 April at the Homeplace Vineyard (Pittsylvania County).
- Gave an update on invasive pests of vineyards seminar supported by the Congressional Invasive Pest Caucus and Congressional Wine Caucus [16 Nov].
- Organized and team-taught 2 pruning workshops [12 & 13 January]
- Gave a talk on variety selection and viticulture training systems at Craft Beverage Unlimited [11-12 Feb.]
- Organized and gave an update on grapevine cold hardiness at the annual Integrated Pest Management Workshop, Early Mountain Winery [16 Feb.]
- Viticulture updates at 4 VCE and industry meetings [15 March, 21 April, 15 & 29 June]
- Update on viticulture research and extension efforts at Virginia Tech with Representative Barbara Comstock [District 10, US House of Representatives]
- Sent 144 email messages to grape growers, including 23 responses to new clientele who were exploring the prospects of commercial grape growing in Virginia
- Authored two Viticulture Notes articles; an update on dormancy and cold hardiness [Dec] and spring deacclimation [March].
- Made or answered 35 extension-related phone calls to grape growers
- Served as an expert resource on eViticulture's (<http://eviticulture.org/>) *Ask an Expert* feature
- Organized and hosted the National Viticulture and Enology Extension Leadership Conference at the AHS Jr AREC [1-3 March]
- Responsible for regular updates to the viticulture website (<http://www.arec.vaes.vt.edu/alson-h-smith/grapes/viticulture/extension/index.html>)
- Served as primary author/developer of a new Vineyard Financial Calculator, an Excel spreadsheet that allows the user to model and evaluate different scenarios to understand vineyard costs and returns.
- Served as lead researcher on a vineyard trial evaluating the merits of converting from cordon-training and spur-pruning to head-training and cane pruning with Cabernet Sauvignon vines at the AHS Agricultural Research and Extension Center.

Some funds were also used to support extension travel and other expenses of Tony Wolf, which included site visits and other Extension-related travel (see following Table).

Summary: Project objectives were accomplished as proposed.

Major extension meetings attended by Viticulture Research/Extension Associate and/or T.K. Wolf, July 2015- June 2016 (**Note, summed mileage is ~11,000 miles**).

Date	Point of travel	Nature of visit	Mileage
16-Jul	Winchester, VA	Frederick County farm tour	23
20-Jul	Shenandoah and Loudoun County	3 established vineyard sites	143
29-Jul	Culpepper, Louisa, Fauquier, Loudoun Counties	4 established vineyard sites	286
6 & 7-Aug	Botetourt, Natural Bridge, Staunton, Pittsylvania Co.	2 established vineyards and 2 new sites	794
20-Aug	Nelson, Rappahannock, Fauquier	4 established vineyard sites	305
19-Sep	Pittsylvania, Madison Co.	Talks at SOVA Ag. Experience and Corks and Climate Change Legislative Retreat	450
5-Oct	Shenandoah County and Loudoun County	Vineyard visit to a potential site	164
13-Nov	Olean and Marshall, VA	New vineyard site and fertilizer pickup	108
16-Nov	Washington, DC	Reduce Risks from Invasive Species Coalition, seminar	180
2-Dec	Blacksburg, VA	Campus visit with Dr. Gordon Groover, Development of a Vineyard Budget	462
12-Jan	Lazy Days Vineyard	Pruning workshop	288
14 Jan	Richmond VA	Agribusiness Council	272
28-30-Jan	Omni Charlottesville	VVA	270
22-23 Jan	Winston-Salem, NC	NC Winegrape growers meeting	570
4-Feb	Blacksburg	VCE winter conference and one site selection visit	475
10-Feb	Asheville, NC	Craft Beverage Conference	812
11 Feb	Early Mt. Winery	VVA Board meeting	190
16-Feb	Madison	Vineyard IPM workshop	190
25-Feb	Washington VA	New vineyard site	113
29-Feb	Dulles VA	Conference participant pickup	158
3-Mar	Dulles VA	Conference participant shuttle and drop off	226
4-Mar	Winchester VA	4H van pickup in Winchester	35
9-Mar	Stafford	Commercial Pesticide License Recertification, vineyard visit in Louisa	307
13-Apr	Pittsylvania Co.	SoVA primer + 2 vineyard visits	559
19-Apr	Bedford Co.	Vineyard visits to 3 vineyards	372
21-Apr	New Kent County	Planting workshop and vineyard visit	340
25-Apr	Manassas	Vineyard Visit	142
28-Apr	Page County	3 vineyard visits	151
2-May	Blacksburg, VA	Thesis defenses, Hickey and Moss	411

4-May	Orange County	2 vineyard visits	220
11-May	Loudoun County	Loudoun Wineries Association meeting	101
20-May	Culpeper and Delaplane	Troubleshooting at two vineyard sites	135
1-Jun	Central VA	4 vineyard visits, vineyard tour prep	285
2-Jun	Warren and Shenandoah Co.	Vineyard Nitrogen Project applications	114
6-Jun	Shenandoah Co.	Vineyard Nitrogen Project	48
8-9-Jun	VVA Summer technical	VVA summer technical and vineyard visits	260
15-Jun	Warren and Loudoun Co.	6 vineyard visits and a vineyard meeting	601
29-Jun	Fauquier and Warren	Vineyard meeting then N application trial	181