



**WINE GRAPE GROWERS' ASSOCIATION, INC.**

# Plant & Pick

The Bi-Monthly Newsletter of the Amador County Wine Grape Growers Association

P.O. Box 718  
 Plymouth, CA 95669  
 (209)245-4910  
 Visit our website at [www.amadorwinegrapes.com](http://www.amadorwinegrapes.com)  
 Email: [amadorwinegrapes@yahoo.com](mailto:amadorwinegrapes@yahoo.com)

**Volume 2** **December 2004** **Issue 6**

Table Of Contents	
President's Message	2
Restricted Materials License	2
General Meeting Minutes	3
Amador Water Quality Alliance Update	4

December 2004		Schedule Of Activities	
December 2004	2	General Meeting	
	25	Christmas	

December 2004						
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	

The December General Meeting  
 Will Be  
**December 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
 From 7:00PM to 9:00PM  
 At The Schoolhouse

January 2005		Schedule Of Activities	
January 2005	1	New Years Day	
	6	Directors Board Meeting	
	20	Newsletter Input Deadline	
	27	Newsletter Released	

January 2005						
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					

**President's Message**  
**By Steve Honeychurch**

I write this just as we return from a month long trip to Egypt and Jordan, an adventure mixing ancient historical sites with nations trying to build a stable society in a unstable region. Yes, they do grow wine grapes in both Egypt and Jordan and make wines which I shall call interesting. I tasted their cabernets and pinot blancs and became a temporary beer drinker.

On the home front we have finished the audit which confirmed we have a short fall of \$4500. 00 to make up this next year. I will send a copy to anyone in the membership who requests it. The current board plan is to keep our expenses down and pay it off as soon as possible.

The nominating committee is still looking for more members who would like to run for board membership. Let one of the nominating committee members know if you are interested (Rob Cowan, Steve Honeychurch, Jack Feichtner). We need member participation to keep the organization active.

We are soliciting ideas for our annual membership dinner in February --let me know your thoughts. Which reminds me--it's that time of the year again! Our \$100 annual dues are due and payable January 1, 2005. Getting the word out to expand the market for our grapes does take money. It is the old story of "it takes money to make money" and Sonoma Wine Grape Growers, a truly effective organization, collects \$250 per year and others in the state are as high or higher. Our dues at \$100 are quite a bargain.

The Board of Directors did not meet during November.

**Renew Your Restricted Materials License**

Fellow Grape Growers:

You have a choice of four dates to renew your restricted materials license for free! You will earn two hours of continuing education and renew your restricted materials permit. The dates are

December 8 9-11 a.m., and

December 13 1-3p.m., and

December 21 9-11 a.m., or

December 29 9-11 a.m..

Call 223-6487 to arrange your date.

Persons with operator id permits should also call 223-6487 for their appointment times.

All sessions will be held in the large conference room at the Department of Agriculture, 12200 B Airport Rd, Martell (note the change)

## General Meeting Minutes

October 14, 2004

By Carol Laubach

AMADOR COUNTY GRAPE GROWERS' ASSOCIATION, INC.

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. by Stephen Honeychurch, at the Shenandoah School House

Present: Stephen Honeychurch, Carol Laubach, John Hoddy, Bob Sleeper, Judy Weiss,

Approval of Minutes: It was m/s/c to accept and approve the minutes of the September 2, 2004 Board meeting with one change. The change was to note that we have not received a bill for \$6,000.00 from Donna Hirschfelt, but that the research committee asked for a donation of \$6,000.00 to be sent to Donna Hirschfelt, UCCE for research.

Treasurer's Report: John Hoddy reported the following: Checking Account \$66.00 and Donation Account \$277.00.

### Old Business:

### Financial:

Steve Honeychurch spoke to the group regarding our financial situation. The ACWGGA owes a member \$4,500.00, and this member has agreed to wait for payment until we get 2005 dues in. There is an audit committee currently working on an audit, looking not for irregularities, but to see all funds that were brought in and disbursed out. The audit is ongoing, and there is no current information available. A few noticeable reasons for the financial situation are: pledges made to the Wine Festival that were not met, higher expenses for the last few years than is average: funding ongoing research, purchase of a storage container, upgrade of the website, etc. The board will be meeting in November,

and will hopefully have more information available from the audit to plan for the future. The November meeting will be held at Rob Cowan house.

There are approximately 20 cases of wine glasses available for sale at \$36.00 per case.

### New Business:

Research: Donna Hirschfelt spoke on the research plot. The fruit was harvested and wine has been made from the 2004 harvest. She used AVG and Zap funds for this year's harvest. Donna suggested that there may be grants and other funds available to help out with the future of the research plot.

Board Positions: There are 4 openings on the board for 2005. They are: Secretary, and 3 board members. Please notify Rob Cowan, Jack Feichtner, or Steve Honeychurch if you are interested in a position.

ACWGGA: Steve Honeychurch asked for input from our membership, has the upgraded web site been of any assistance?

There was also some general discussion about the direction of the organization in the future.

Spanish class: Betsy Tumbus has offered to teach field Spanish to our members. We still need to put the program together, but it is certainly a good time of year for this. Chris Morse suggested that we invite El Dorado County growers also.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05pm.

**Amador Water Quality Alliance Update  
by Dan Port  
Amador County Resource Conservation District**

PS We will be stuffing envelopes for the mailing at 9:00 Monday morning (the 8th) at the Ag Commissioner's office. Any volunteer help would be greatly appreciated.

Dan Port  
Director, Amador County Resource Conservation District  
Amador Water Quality Alliance  
209-274-4351

AWQA is now SAWQA. At our August membership meeting it was decided to join with Sacramento County irrigators rather than go it alone in Amador County. This last week the Amador and Lower Cosumnes Resource Conservation Districts agreed to sign a Memorandum of Understanding which will allow the formation of the Sacramento/Amador Water Quality Alliance. The Districts have also signed an Agreement with our partner, the Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition, to perform the water quality testing and reporting necessary to comply with requirements from the Water Board.

The Amador Irrigators Advisory Committee met on October 28 and recommended a first year budget which was approved by the Amador Resource Conservation District. The budget was subsequently approved by the Lower Cosumnes Resource Conservation District. First year fees will be \$75 annual membership fee plus \$1.55 per irrigated acre. You will be receiving a billing statement with more information by mail next week.

The membership fee is higher than the Amador Committee preferred but it was agreed that a portion of the benefits received by each member are the same regardless of the size of operation since each member is legally obligated to comply with the new requirements issued by the Water Board. In addition the fees had to be set high enough to cover our first year start up costs and costs of compliance without knowing exactly how many irrigators will be enrolled in our group. Your Resource Conservation Districts and Advisory Committees will continue to work to keep these fees as low as possible.

The Advisory Committee meets the second Wednesday of each month and members are encouraged to attend. The next meeting is December 10 at the Ag Commissioner's office at the Airport at 7:00 pm.

**Rob Cowan Construction**  
 Lic. # 577122-A • Bonded & Insured



12650 C Shenandoah Road  
 Plymouth, CA 95669  
**(209) 245-4509**

*Site Work • Excavating • Dozers • Grader  
 Backhoe • Transfer Truck • Water Truck*

<b>ACWGGA 2004/2005 Board Of Directors</b>			
<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>Term</b>
Steve Honeychurch	President	245-3608	2004 - 2005
Rob Cowan	Vice President	245-4509	2004 - 2006
John Hoddy	Treasurer	245-4843	2003 - 2004
Marilou Robinson	Secretary	245-3760	2004 - 2006
Jack Feichtner	Director	245-3037	2002 - 2004
Carol Laubach	Director	296-3131	2002 - 2004
Henry Reilly	Director	245-4100	2003 - 2005
Bob Sleeper	Director	245-6624	2004 - 2004
Judy Weiss	Director	245-6065	2003 - 2005

**Big Pot® Benchgrafts**



**We've Got the Best Vines!**

Duarte Nursery, Inc. • 1-800-GRAFTED  
 1555 Baldwin Road • Hughson, CA 95326 • Ph: 209-531-0351

**Classified Ads**

This newsletter will provide space for members to place requests for services or equipment, to sell or purchase items, or to just give something away. Contact the Newsletter Editor, Ted Langlet, at tlanglet@volcano.net or call 296-8430 to place your ad in our next newsletter.