

Volume 3, No. 2

February 2, 2006

KITSAP WINE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

(See the KWS website at www.kitsapwines.org)

UPCOMING EVENTS

February –Red Wine and Chocolate, Take II, promises to be even more popular than last year’s event. There will be a slight change in format, to allow us to have a chocolate tasting first. Eight chocolates, from everyday to high-end selections, will be blind tasted. We’ll check the nose, color, and feel in the mouth, similar to tasting wine. Because the wine can change the taste of chocolate we will bring out the wine afterward.

First will be a unique Italian sparkling wine, then a very fruit-forward California Zinfandel, and last a Banyuls-style French wine – truly a chocolate match made in heaven! Lastly, we’ll taste a surprise beverage for a most interesting match.

This event will be at the Clear Creek Community Center, on February 25, at 7 pm. Member cost is \$20, guests \$27; paid reservations should be received by February 18 and will be limited to the first 48. Mail your check to: KWS Wine and Chocolate, PO Box 1684, Silverdale, WA 98383. For questions or more information, call Event Chair Larry Sukut, 769-5458; or Co-chairs Bill and Janice Lounsbury, 871-2066, or Scot t and Suzanne Wisenberg, 769-0457.

March 24 – A Sensory Evaluation with Kitsap Wine Society

We invite you to attend a (somewhat) disciplined approach to Wine Tasting! Join us in comparing Old and New World wine styles in an entertaining environment within a (somewhat) academic setting. Combine pleasure and serious appreciation techniques while exploring the varietal typicality of six familiar grapes and assessing the components of wine from clues provided by the influence of the fruit itself, but also by the earth and wood involved. Investigate the terms “terroir,” “body,” “length,” “finish,” and “overall quality.” We promise that your enjoyment of future wine experiences will benefit by developing these skills!

This event will be March 24, 7 pm, at the Kitsap Golf and Country Club, 3885 NW Golf Club Hill Road, Bremerton. Mail reservation checks (\$25 members, \$35 guests) by March 18 to: Sensory Evaluation, PO Box 1684, Silverdale, WA 98383. For questions or cancellations e-mail Pam Mayo at holdthemayo2000@wavecable.com or Coreen Johnson at corrاند1@wavecable.com

April 22 – Spanish Tapas and Wine – and Annual Meeting.

May 24 – South American Malbec.

June 17 – Australian Shiraz.

July 9 – Annual Barbecue.

Reminder: For the most part, these events are designed as a learning experience and are set up just for tasting. Please have dinner or a late lunch beforehand.

AND NOW WORDS FROM YOUR PRESIDENT –

Dear Wine Lovers,

The Kitsap Wine Society needs you! Board members and officers terms of service are expiring and volunteers are sought. Please give this some serious consideration.

The decision to turn over the joystick of the Wine Society was an anxious time for me. I worried it was going to fold because everyone I talked with was too busy to devote time to do leader of the pack or anything else. A Secretary, two Program co-chairs, and various non-elected volunteer committee members are needed.

I have appointed Nick Tomassi to chair the Nominating Committee. Coreen Johnson has also volunteered for this project. Please call or email Nick Tomassi at info@tomassiwinecabinet.com or Coreen Johnson at corrاند1@wavecable.com

You have some awesome Officers and Board members that have been serving your society. These guys are just fantastic and you could be fantastic too!

Janice Lounsbery will continue to Chair the publicity committee for another two-year term. Committee members are needed to make her job easier and less time consuming. Lending her a hand could include delivering flyers, emailing or publicity types of chores. Every little bit helps.

Another fine example of a diligent committee chair is Membership Chair, Tom Devlin. Committee members are needed for this committee. Tom will also continue as chair for another two-year term. Committee members would enjoy duties in a highly social setting such as greeting members and guests at events with their nametags. This is very exhilarating!

Are you hankering to learn more about websites? At-Large Member and President elect, Larry Sukut is largely responsible for our Website. With his new responsibilities, he will need an apprentice. Reminder: every little bit helps.

Volunteers are always welcome and needed. Without your participation and interest, we would have never made it this far. Your board, current and upcoming, hopes you will continue your participation and support of KWS.

The past two years have been an amazing experience. I am proud of our accomplishments and am keen to see what the coming year will bring. Won't you become involved?

Nazdrovie,
Mary Earl
President

Next Board Meeting will be February 28, after 6:41 pm, at 3025 NW Mountainview, Silverdale.

BOARD ELECTIONS UPDATE

Nominating Committee Chair Nick Tomassi said that the following members have thus far volunteered to run for next year's board:

President – Larry Sukut
Vice President – Bill Lounsbury
Treasurer – Chuck Tourville
 Secretary – Open
Finance Chair – Rick Calvin
Membership Chair – Tom Devlin
Publicity Chair – Janice Lounsbury
Event Chair – Open

Members who would like to run for either of the open positions of Secretary and Event Chair – or any other position – are asked to call Nick at 613-4243.

In accordance with our bylaws, ballots will be mailed to all members on March 20 and should be returned to our Silverdale post office box (1684) no later than April 17. Installation of officers will take place at our Annual Meeting April 22, which will be held in conjunction with the Spanish Tapas and Wine event.

FYI –

North Sound Wineries Extend Red Wine & Chocolate Celebration
Public invited to savor heavenly pairing over two delicious weekends

Jan. 30, 2006 – The North Sound Wineries Association, a group of 10 distinctive award-winning small wineries located on the North Olympic Peninsula, Bainbridge and Whidbey Islands and Greenbank Farm, a local wine retailer, is adding a second weekend to its annual celebration of everyone’s favorite pairing. The popular *Red Wine & Chocolate* event will take place **Feb. 11-12** and **Feb. 18-19-20** this year, enabling visitors to enjoy the region’s best handcrafted red wines and an array of chocolate delights in an early Valentine’s Day celebration or save the savoring for a President’s Day Weekend get-away. The wineries/farm will be open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day.

“Red Wine & Chocolate is our most well-attended event, and draws visitors from around the Puget Sound area and beyond,” says North Sound Wineries Association President Vicki Corson. “With a 3-day weekend following Valentine’s Day, it makes sense to keep the celebration going. We hope the extra weekend will give even more people the opportunity to experience this beautiful area and discover some great local wines – not to mention some delicious local chocolate! Those who visit all 11 wineries throughout the weekend will be entered in a drawing for an elegantly packaged North Olympic Peninsula and Puget Sound Islands gift basket.”

The North Olympic Peninsula can be accessed in less than three hours drive from areas in north, south and central-eastside Puget Sound. Ferry service to Bainbridge and Whidbey Islands enables visitors to experience all 10 wineries and Greenbank Farm in an enjoyable, comfortably-paced weekend.

Tickets are available online or at any of the member wineries for \$20.00, and entitle the holder to a commemorative wine glass and complimentary wine tastings. Visit www.northsoundwineries.org or call 800-785-5495 for further information. BONUS an eleventh winery has been added: Harbinger Winery just west of Port Angeles on Hwy 101.

ALSO FYI – (From the Seattle Times, by Shannon Dininny, Associated Press)

YAKIMA -- Washington's wine industry continued to distinguish itself Monday with word that the Wahluke Slope, an isolated area of Southeastern Washington, will be designated the state's eighth federally recognized wine-grape region. About 60 miles north of Richland, the Wahluke Slope is known for warm temperatures that produce intensely flavored grapes. The area borders the Columbia River to the west and south, the Saddle Mountains to the north and the Hanford Reach National Monument to the east.

Washington State is the nation's second-largest producer of premium wine, after California. More than 350 wineries, 350 wine-grape growers and 30,000 vineyard acres support the \$2.4 billion annual industry. The federal government already has recognized seven appellations inside the state.

Named Wahluke or "watering place" by Native Americans who settled there, the 81,000-acre region represents nearly 20 percent of the state's wine-grape acreage, with 5,205 bearing acres. Wahluke Slope grapes have a distinct profile that includes intense flavors with a lot of tannins, said Marie-Eve Gilla, winemaker at Forgeron Cellars in Walla Walla. In addition, the region appears to be less susceptible to frost.

MEMBERSHIP – Our newest members are Greg and Anne Scea. Welcome! Membership is at 105.

Also new is the availability of Gift Memberships; contact Membership Chair Tom Devlin.

COMING SOON -- In the near future you will be able to pay for Kitsap Wine Society events and membership renewals with your credit/debit card or via PayPal. PayPal is a method of electronic payment directly from your bank account that millions use to pay for eBay auctions and bills or to transfer money to friends and family. It is secure, easy to use and free! Stay tuned for more information.

WINE TASTINGS – FULL LISTING ON OUR WEBSITE!

If you know of additions or deletions, please let your editor know...

WINE LINKS -- To learn more about wines and wine events, check out the wine links noted at the KWS website, www.kitsapwines.org

Inputs to the KWS Newsletter are welcome and may be sent to Janice Lounsbury by the first day of each month via jlounsbury@wavecable.com