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# Nebraska Vine Lines

*University of Nebraska Viticulture Program  
Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources  
Editors: Dr. Paul Read, Professor of Horticulture & Viticulture  
Donna Michel, University of Nebraska Viticulture Program*

UNIVERSITY OF  
**Nebraska**  
Lincoln

January/February , 2005 Vol. VIII, No. 1

## **Eighth Annual Nebraska Winery and Grape Growers Forum and Trade Show**



Ed Hellman is Associate Professor and Extension Specialist in Viticulture at Texas A & M University in Lubbock, TX, author of "Oregon Viticulture".

More on Page 9.



**Elizabeth Slater**, is the owner of "In Short Direct Marketing" and works with individual wineries and winery associations. Elizabeth comes to us from California.

More on Page 4.

**Mike White, Field Specialist** is from Iowa State University, Extension. In recent years he has assumed responsibility for assisting the development of Iowa's emerging grape and wine industry.



**Steve Menke, Enologist and Extension Educator** for Pennsylvania State University. He is the Extension Educator in Adams County, Gettysburg, PA. He will be speaking about Wine Quality Assurance in Pennsylvania.

**Just Getting Started – or "So You Want to Grow Grapes" – Vineyard Establishment** topics will be presented by **Steve Gamet**, University of Nebraska Viticulture Program technician and will be geared toward helping people who plan to start a vineyard or have recently begun growing grapes.

## **Famed Grape Breeder, Elmer Swenson Passes Away**

I first met Elmer Swenson in the mid-1970s when he began working as a technician for the University of Minnesota fruit breeding program. By that time, he had retired from dairy farming, having worked the family farm near Osceola, Wisconsin for many years, and had already been breeding grapes for over 25 years.

He began his breeding efforts in 1944 with a goal of developing a table grape that could withstand the rigors of Wisconsin winters. Thousands of seedling grapevines resulted from his efforts, so that by the time he began working at the University of Minnesota, he had created a large number of advanced selections. Two of these were jointly released by Elmer and the University of Minnesota in 1978, 'Edelweiss' and 'Swenson Red'.

Although released as a table grape, 'Edelweiss' has become a mainstay of the Nebraska wine industry. In fact, 'Edelweiss' has become almost a signature varietal wine for several Nebraska wineries, garnering numerous awards in international competitions. Another Swenson introduction, 'Saint Croix' has become one of the most important red winegrapes for Nebraska wineries.

Shortly after I took over the responsibility for the University of Nebraska Viticulture Program in 1997, I took advantage of Elmer's invitation to visit him at his farm in Wisconsin. Shortly after my arrival, he showed me a number of grape seedlings that were growing in orderly rows near the farmhouse. Elmer seemed quite enthusiastic about these seedlings. (I was later to learn that he was enthusiastic about hundreds more). He then suggested that we go to the nearby town for lunch, and assuming that I'd seen what he had to show me, I agreed. In my mind, I was already heading back to the Twin Cities where I would join my wife and kids for dinner.

The ride with Elmer to the local café for lunch was an adventure, since his driving was a bit unsteady. Of course everyone at the café knew and greeted Elmer. It was clear that the locals really enjoyed knowing Elmer; it was a treat just to be along with him.

After lunch during the drive back to the farm, Elmer asked if I'd like to see 'a few more seedlings'. A "few"? To my surprise and delight, he had thousands more seedlings to show me! His enthusiasm knew no bounds, each seedling was like an old friend to Elmer, so he "introduced" them one and all to me. I was in pretty good physical shape in those days, but I had a hard time keeping up with this then octogenarian! Being short of stature  
**(continued on Page 9 )**.

**UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA  
VITICULTURE PROGRAM  
PRESENTS 2005**

**Several timely topics will be addressed at the Eastern Nebraska (March 12, Springfield) and Western Nebraska (March 19, Ogallala) Advanced Viticulture Workshops. Organic Viticulture Field Day – (June 25, Hartington).**

Hands-on practical applications will enable participants to learn about balanced pruning, trellis development, vine management and fertilizer practices. Several different cultivars of young and established vines will be pruned and trellised. In western Nebraska, high cordon, Geneva Double Curtain and vertical shoot positioning, along with a conversion from a 4-arm system to GDC will be observed. These topics, along with soil test interpretation, fertilizer practices, pest management and more will be presented by Paul Read and Steve Gamet, with able assistance and practical insights provided by local growers. Cost, including lunch, will be \$15 per attendee. You will want to be sure to attend whichever session is most convenient for you. To register, call Donna Michel (402-472-8747) or e-mail ([dmichel@unl.edu](mailto:dmichel@unl.edu)). You may pay at the door, but pre-registration will help with lunch plans. Maps of how to find each location will be sent to registrants, posted on the Viticulture web-site and will be available at the Forum in Kearney.

**GROWING GRAPES ORGANICALLY  
FIELD DAY - June 25, 2005**

The **Nissen Brothers** will be hosting a field day on June 25th at 12:00 – 3:30 pm in their vineyard located in the Bow Valley region of Nebraska. Topics include an introduction to grape growing and the sensitivity of grape cultivars to sulfur which is used as an organically certified fungicide. The location is 3 miles north of Hartington on Hwy 57 to 886 Road. Then 2 1/2 miles East to 566 Ave, turn south onto 566 Ave for 1/2 mile. Sponsored in part by the **University of Nebraska Viticulture Program, the Organic Farming Research Foundation and the USDA SARE Program.**

**UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA  
ENTOMOLOGIST TO SPEAK ON  
“ASIAN LADY BEETLES” AND  
MORE**

**Fred Baxendale, Professor of Entomology will speak on “Grape Insect Identification and Management in Nebraska”.**

**SOIL TESTING:  
A TIMELY TOPIC**

The following article is taken from a recent article in Ohio State University's Soil Testing of Vineyards by Marcus Brown.

Soil testing is a relatively simple procedure that will determine the availability of the primary (N, P, K), secondary (S, Mg, Ca), and micro (Fe, Mn, B, Cl, Zn, Cu, Mo) nutrients for plant uptake. Cation exchange capacity (CEC) is an important indicator of the soil particles' ability to readily exchange cations (e.g.  $H^+$ ,  $Ca^{++}$ ,  $K^+$ ) with the plant roots. Soils are routinely tested to determine if lime is required. Liming of soils is commonly done to raise soil pH levels between 5.5 to 6.5 and assure the availability of nutrients. The amount of organic matter in a soil can influence soil fertility and tilth.

Soil pH in the range of 5.5 to 6.5 is adequate for grape production. There is very little potential of nutrient elements being tied up or being released at high levels that can cause toxicity to the vines. Vineyard soils with 2-3% organic matter are considered normal. Nitrogen is generally lacking in Ohio soils and is customarily applied to each growing season at the rate of 30 to 50 lbs. actual N/acre. Historically, Ohio soils have not been deficient in P, and soils with 40-50 lbs./acre are considered adequate. Potassium is an element that should be maintained around 250-300 lbs./acre to assure adequate vine uptake. Grapevines use considerable amounts of K for development of foliage, wood and fruit production. Magnesium, B, and Z are considered adequate in the ranges of 200-250 lbs./acre, 1.5-2.0 lbs./acre, and 8-10 lbs./acre, respectively.

Cation exchange capacity (CEC) measures the ability of a soil to retain exchangeable cations ( $H^+$ ,  $Ca^{++}$ , and  $K^+$ ). The percent of organic matter and clay influence the CEC of a soil and ultimately determine the amount of each element available to the plant. There can be different ranges of CEC depending on the classification of the soil: sand (1-5), silt (5-20), clay (20-30), and organic ( $30^+$ ).

Liming can provide several benefits to acidic soils including increasing the levels of  $Ca^{++}$  and  $Mg^{++}$ , adjust soil pH, reduce the potential of toxic levels of micronutrients, promotes microbial activity to release N, P, K, and B, and can improve the overall soil structure and tilth. The Lime Test Index (LTI) indicates the tons/acre of Ag-ground lime needed to adjust a mineral soil to a specific pH. For example, a vineyard soil that has an LTI = 68 would require 1.2 tons/acre of Ag-lime to raise the soil pH to 6.5. Another important aspect of liming is that there are other alternatives to using Ag-lime; however, based on their Total Neutralizing Power (TNP) of at least 90 percent the amounts required of each liming material are different. Only 1600 lbs. of Ag-superfine lime would be needed to adjust a soil pH compared with a ton of Ag-lime, and alternatively 4000 lbs./acre of Ag-coarse screenings are required to complete the same adjustment to soil pH as Ag-lime. **Continued on Page 5**

**Prairie Vine Winery** is now open in Mitchell Nebraska, offering 9 exciting wines for your enjoyment. Two dry wines aged on oak, Monument Red great with that Nebraska steak or prime rib and Prairie Sand which goes great with pasta or fish. Three semi-sweet wines Neighbors Choice a well balanced blush, Western Sky Rossette a tangy Red and Chalk Butte White, a very good wine made from the LaCrosse grape. For the sweet wines lovers we offer Platte River Red a grapey full flavored not too sweet red and Barn Dance Fantasy a fruity white. We offer a sparkling wine Autumn Gold, semisweet and full of fizz great for any special occasion. For your after dinner enjoyment Nebraska Blackberry Wine Desert wine will cap off the day. Please check out our web site at [PrairieVine.com](http://PrairieVine.com). We are open 7 days a week Mon-Sat 11:00 to 7:00 and Sunday 1:00 to 6:00, also by appointment. Come by and see us at 1463 17<sup>th</sup> Ave in Mitchell Nebraska on the South side of Highway 26. Give us a call at 308-623-2955 or email [PrairieVine@nebmail.com](mailto:PrairieVine@nebmail.com).

## KEEP IN TOUCH

### Communicate with neighboring farmers, homeowners to minimize drift problems.

If you want to avoid herbicide drift problems among neighbors, try this out: Be neighborly. Keep in touch with your neighbors, says Joanne Kick-Raack, state pesticide coordinator for the Ohio State University Extension. Know what they grow and when they grow it, she says. If they are suburban homeowners, know what their concerns are and let them know whether their concerns are warranted.

Many fruit and vegetable growers see herbicide drift problems from both sides, Kick-Raack says. Herbicide drift from corn and soybean fields in Ohio can affect fruit and vegetable crops, such as by bringing unwanted residue. In Florida, herbicide drift from sugar cane fields can move into produce fields, says Gene McAvoy; a University of Florida vegetable horticulturist based in Hendry County.

Urban sprawl has added to the problem, both Kick-Raack and McAvoy say. Growers now have more suburban neighbors. For example, Doran's Farm Market of New Albany, Ohio, grows 70 acres of produce including strawberries, snap peas, melons, tomatoes, green beans, pumpkins and sweet corn in an area called "rural suburbia." Doran's Farm Market, owned by Jim Doran and his wife, Michele, is located about 20 miles northeast of sprawling Columbus, Ohio. Kick-Raack points to three stages where growers can take steps to avoid bad feelings about herbicide drift; plan ahead, apply wisely, respond personally and immediately.

#### 1. Plan ahead

Know your property lines and what your neighbor has near the lines, Kick-Raack says. A suburban neighbor might have a well right on the property line or a garden nearby, she says. You should be aware of this and plan accordingly. It might mean selecting a different type of application material. Remember, Kick-Raack says, that herbicides are more likely than insecticides or fungicides to damage home garden plants.

You may need to make your urban neighbor aware of the property lines, Kick-Raack says. She has seen cases where homeowners accidentally planted gardens, trees and shrubs on farmers' properties. Suburban homes and farmers' fields have drawn closer together on the east coast of Florida, McAvoy says. Herbicide drift, even perceived drift, has brought negative responses from communities, he says. Try to make certain that drift, even the perceived drift of an odor, does not float downwind to any housing area.

If your neighbor is a fellow farmer, make him or her aware of your plantings. For example, say you just put out some sensitive transplants and corn or soybean growers farm next to you. "You might want to call whomever owns that property and say, 'This is what I'm doing,'" Kick-Raack says. "Make sure they know it's there."

In Florida, sugar cane growers tend to put out herbicides in the fall or about the same time that other growers plant fruit and vegetables. Sugar cane growers sometimes use the organo-auxin class of herbicides (2,4-D), which shows documented cases of drifting 25 miles or more McAvoy says.

He advises fruit and vegetable growers to talk to sugar cane growers. Try to adjust the timings of produce plantings and sugar can herbicide applications in a way that will see the fewest problems.

#### 2. Apply wisely

Wind speed during herbicide application can get you into legal trouble. McAvoy says in his area growers cannot legally spray organo-auxin type herbicides if the wind speed reaches 10 mph or more during proscribed months.

The rules vary by state, Kick-Raack says. Ohio has no wind speed limit, but growers still can face drift violations even at low wind speeds if they damage plants. Herbicide labels generally have a wind speed limit. Some might say 10 mph and others 15 mph. If you apply herbicides in violation of the label, you could be liable for neighbors' damages, she says.

Doran makes certain herbicide applications are not done on windy days. If the wind starts to pick up during an application, he will decide whether to finish the application. He might have the perimeter of the field done and then finish off the center. He may cut pressure, speed and volume to adjust for the change in wind speed.

Besides wind speed, droplet size influences drift. The smaller the size, the more likely it is to penetrate the plant, Kick-Raack says, and the more likely it is to drift. Droplet size can range from 20 to 400 microns, Kick-Raack says. "Sometimes 20 microns in size is not the range you want," she says. "You're looking at how long it falls to the earth and how active that size of droplet is. "Four hundred microns won't move as far and (will) drop faster and not drift. The problem is, it gets so big, you start losing activity, and its not taken up by the plant very easily."

Many recommendations for droplet size range from 150 to 200 microns, she says. McAvoy and UF give other recommendations for applying herbicides wisely. Lowering the spray boom will reduce the chance of wind carrying herbicide to your neighbor's property. Employing drift control adjuvants and reducing spray pressure can help, too.

#### 3. Respond personally and immediately

Most neighbors want to ensure they can trust farmers living nearby, Kick-Raack says. Respond to any complaint immediately, whether it be in person or on the phone. "Don't just kind of dismiss them and say you don't have time to talk to them," she says. "You need to take the time even though its usually just a terribly busy time of the year."

You may provide a copy of the herbicide label to show your neighbor you are following safety rules. An Extension agent could serve as an unbiased third party in any disagreement, she adds. Doran says he posts signs next to fields after an application has been made, even if the label does not require it. It lets neighbors know when it's safe to re-enter that field, although re-entry times generally are not as long for herbicides as they are for insecticides and fungicides. Doran keeps logs of chemical applications, too. Remember that your neighbors might be your customers.

"Some of the same neighbors are the people you rely on to buy fresh-market produce," Kick-Raack says. "You want local support if you sell locally." Two-thirds of the produce grown by Doran is sold at the firm's farmers' market. The other third goes to wholesale. Doran says the negative publicity of any chemical spill would cut deeply into his business.

Taken from The Grower/May 2003

By Jeff Gelski

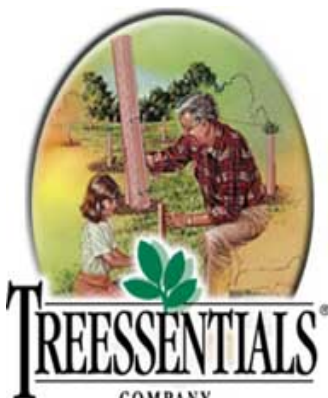
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**8<sup>th</sup> Annual Nebraska Winery and Grape Growers Forum  
and NWGGA Tradeshow**

The 2005 – 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Nebraska Winery and Grape Growers Forum and NWGGA Tradeshow is shaping up to be one of the best we have seen in Nebraska. The exhibitors are excited and most of all of the 2004 exhibitors have indicated they again want to be at our show. Additionally, several new vendors will be attending promoting products for both the wineries and growers. Early confirmations include:

Keystone Cooperate	Prospero
Turnbull Nursery	Midwest Vineyard Supply
Winter Haven Vineyard	MDT & Associates
Cerexagri	Fermenter's Supply
Double A Nursery	The Label Gallery
St. Francois Nursery	Spec Trellising
Midwest Growers Supply	Cana Vineyards
Reams Sprinklers	Penoach
Iowa Grape Vines	BDI Equipment



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netting installers.

**Continued from Page 1**

**Elizabeth Slater**, is the owner of "In Short Direct Marketing" a direct marketing company that works with individual wineries and winery associations. She is also a contributing columnist for "Vineyard and Winery Management" Magazine.

A decade in the wine industry has been spent working at and for different wineries creating direct marketing programs, many of which are still in place. For the past seven years she has owned her own company, In Short Direct Marketing, working with winery associations and individual wineries to create, improve the effectiveness of direct marketing programs. Elizabeth is known as the organizer and/or creator of many consumer marketing programs and events. The innovative and diverse programs she creates continue to increase sales and recognition for clients. In Short serves as the marketing company for the Russian River Wine Road creating such events and programs as Winter Wineland and RoadRunners. Elizabeth oversees Passport for the Winegrowers of Dry Creek Valley, teaches Wine Marketing at Santa Rosa Junior College, writes a marketing column for Vineyard & Winery Management and consults with wineries regarding county and state regulations concerning use permits, food service and responsible hospitality.

Elizabeth will be presenting a keynote speech at the conference and will also be presenting a half-day workshop on Marketing, both at the individual winery and marketing the industry at the state level.

**Masters students to speak at 8<sup>th</sup> Forum in Kearney, March 4 and 5, 2005**

**Keri Andersen** of the University of Nebraska Viticulture Program will be presenting further research on "Analyzing Health-related Components of Wine".

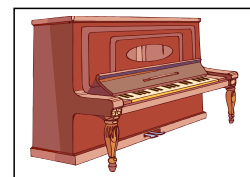
**Wayne Woldt Professor** at the University of Nebraska BioSystems Engineering Department will be presenting his and **Jodi Harper's** research on the "Electronic Nose". Sample corks were collected at the 2004 Fall Workshop for analysis. Don't miss the results of their research.

**Vendors, Vendors, and more Vendors.** This promises to be our biggest year ever for the Trade Show.

**The Grand Banquet to feature "Ragtime"**

**Giacomo M. Oliva, Dean of the Hixson-Lied College of Fine and Performing Arts at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln** Dr. Oliva will present his upbeat "Ragtime Lecture Recital" that promises to liven up our evening!

Be sure to register for the Banquet – Come and join us in this fun night of "Ragtime".





## SOIL TESTING (continued from page 1 )

Soil samples are generally taken either during the fall or early spring depending on when you would like to apply fertilizer. Some growers feel that by having their soil analyzed in the fall they are able to purchase needed fertilizer at a reduced rate. Others feel that applications of N and other elements should be made in the spring just prior to shoot growth. Nitrogen applications should be completed before June to allow for uptake and utilization by the vines during the growing season. Mid- to late- summer applications of N will encourage the vines to continue vegetative growth into the fall season when plants should begin to harden off prior to dormancy.

You can collect samples by using either a soil probe, spade, or shovel. Be sure to take samples in your vineyard along a Z or X shaped pattern in the field or block of vines to assure representative samples. Avoid sampling soil only in the middle or along the edges of the vineyard. In order to have a representative sample be sure to use a clean plastic bucket and take generous amounts of soil from several places along the Z or X. To adequately evaluate the soil profile of your vineyard be sure to sample at three different depths (if possible) starting at just below the surface to 8", then from 8" to 16", and finally from 16" to 24". This will allow you to make any necessary adjustments in soil fertility in the normal root zone of the grapevines.

When submitting a soil sample for analysis, you should fill out a Soil Test Form. This form will instruct the individual processing your soil sample as to the type of test(s) you want to have conducted. Information given on the form will provide the location of the soil sample, recent history of fertilizer and lime applications, depth of where the sample was taken, crop status, intended crop, crop age (if planted), and whether irrigation is applied.

For more information about Nebraska soil tests, call the Soil and Plant Analytical Lab, (402) 472-1571



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# EIGHTH ANNUAL NEBRASKA WINERY & GRAPE GROWERS FORUM & TRADE SHOW

March 4-5, 2005

Holiday Inn  
Kearney, NE

	NWGGA Member	Non- Member
Name _____	\$90.00 _____	\$100.00 _____
Vineyard/Company _____		
Address _____		
City _____ State _____ Zip _____		
Telephone: _____ E-mail _____		

**Additional people registering:**

Name _____	\$90.00 _____	\$100.00 _____
Name _____	\$90.00 _____	\$100.00 _____

**Pre-registration Deadline is February 18 2005 – Registration is \$100.00 for member and \$110.00 for non-member after February 18, 2005 and \$120 at the door. Refunds before February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2005 will be assessed a \$10 service charge. No refunds after February 18, 2005.**

=====

**Register me for the “Banquet” – “A Night of Great Food – Great Wine and Ragtime”.**

Name _____	\$40.00
Name _____	\$40.00

Entrée Selection: Prime Rib – done to perfection \_\_\_\_\_

Salmon with Dill Sauce \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**Make checks payable to: University of Nebraska Viticulture Program**

**And mail to:**

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Attn: Donna Michel  
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Lincoln, NE 68583-0724**

Questions? Call Paul Read at 402/472-5136 or  
Donna Michel at 402/472-8747  
[pread@unl.edu](mailto:pread@unl.edu) or [dmichel@unl.edu](mailto:dmichel@unl.edu)

## FOR YOUR CALENDAR

### Keep these dates open:

March 4-5, 2005. "8th Annual Nebraska Winery & Grape Growers Forum and Trade Show" – Kearney, NE. Contact Donna Michel – 402-472-8747 or go to our web-site at

[agronomy.unl.edu/viticulture](http://agronomy.unl.edu/viticulture)

March 12, 2005. University of Nebraska Viticulture Program – Advanced Viticulture Field Day" –Eastern NE Springfield, NE

March 19, 2005. University of Nebraska Viticulture Program – Advanced Viticulture Field Day – Western NE Ogallala, NE.

June 18, 2005. Multistate Field Day. Details in next Nebraska VineLines.

June 25, 2005. Organically Grown Grapes Field Day. Nissen Brothers Vineyards, Hartington, NE. More details in the next Nebraska Vine Lines.

### Some further information:

January 28 & 29, 2005. Iowa Wine Growers Annual Meeting, Call 515.262.8323 for more information.

February 5-7, 2005. Midwest Grape & Winery Conference, Tan Tara, MO. Information – Denise at 1-800-392-WINE

February 18-19, 2005. Minnesota Grape Growers Association "Cold Climate Symposium". Friday Session \$50 Saturday Session - \$125 per person. Mail registration to: 35690 Hwy 61 Blvd, Lake City, MN 55041.

March 21-24, 2005. Wineries Unlimited, Lancaster, PA

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### ASHS Elections of Officers for 2004 Completed -

This year's election of officers for the American Society for Horticultural Science Board of Directors by the ASHS Membership placed **Paul E. Read as President-elect**. New President-elect Paul E. Read assumes his role on the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee immediately. An ASHS Member since 1965, Paul has served the Society on several committees and on the Board as Education Division Vice President.

**Way to go Paul. Congrats from the Viticulture Team**

Donna Michel  
Steve Gamet  
Keri Andersen



**If You Prune Them.... They Will Grow!  
Winter Pruning Seminar  
Saturday, February 5, 2005**

**Featuring Tom Plocher  
Author of Northern Wineworks**

Mr. Plocher comes to us from Minnesota. He is a highly respected expert in the field of grape growing focused on northern climates such as Nebraska. Come prepared...your session will begin indoors and then you will receive "hands on" experience in the vineyard! Bring your grape growing questions to have them answered by Mr. Plocher.

**Saturday, February 5, 2005  
9:00a.m. – 1:00p.m.**

Session includes lunch. Please plan to arrive 15 minutes early to the session. Only **40 participants** for the session will be accepted.

**Fee: \$25.00 per person  
To make reservations please contact  
Mac's Creek Vineyards & Winery –  
(308) 324-0440.**

**VINEYARD MANAGEMENT SEMINAR  
--One Morning only – February 6, 2005**

**Tom Plocher will then move to:  
17 Ranch Vineyard  
Lewellen, NE**

A short classroom will be presented, talking about vines, then we will proceed to the Vineyard. This vineyard was planted in 1999 and 2000. We will have 5, coming 6 year old plants to evaluate, then we can proceed down to newly planted replacement plants from 2004 to evaluate. There will be vines from last years (2003-2004) winter kill to observe and evaluate. We will be actually pruning on these vines, so bring your pruning shears. We will also evaluate the trellis systems for the varieties.

**Cost: \$25.00 per person. Limited to 25 maximum.**  
Advance Registration recommended. Lunch will be provided.  
(We will take names for a wait list, incase someone cancels).

**Bruce & Ellen Burdick  
5052 Rd. 197  
Lewellen, NE 69147  
308/778-5543**

**Vineyard Location: 1 mile west of Lewellen, on Hwy 26  
North 1/14 mile  
17 Ranch sign**

**SUPPORT YOUR UNIVERSITY VITICULTURE  
PROGRAM and – Get a Tax Deduction, too!**

Many people make year-end tax-deductible contributions to their favorite charities, but did you know that a tax-deductible contribution may be made to support the University of Nebraska Viticulture Program? A contribution can be made to the **University of Nebraska Foundation**, 1111 Bldg., 1111 Lincoln Mall, Suite 200, Lincoln, NE. 68508-0650. Provide the notation "Gift for the University of Nebraska Grape Cultivar Evaluation Fund, #3017." In these days of tight budgets, every dollar counts – by your donation, you can help the research and education programs and at the same time gain a tax deduction. Thanks for your support.

**University of Nebraska Viticulture Program**

**NWGGA TO SPONSOR AMATEUR WINE  
CONTEST**

The NWGGA is initiating an amateur wine competition to be held at the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Nebraska Winery and Grape Growers Forum and Trade Show on March 4, 2005 at the Kearney Holiday Inn. The Wine Contest Entry Form and Fee (\$10.00 per wine entered) must be received by Dale Lilyhorn, 3000 W. Branched Oak Rd., Raymond, NE 68428 by February 19, 2005. Entry Form in this issue.

**For your convenience: Rooms for the Forum in Kearney  
Holiday Inn - \$70.95**

308/237-5971 or 800-248-4460

**Hampton Inn – 308-234-3400 \$70.95**

**Wingate Inn – 800-228-1000 \$70.95**

**Be sure to mention that you're with the Grape &  
Wine Forum.**



**Double A Vineyards**

10277 Christy Road

Fredonia, NY 14063

**Phone: 716/672-9483**

**Double A Vineyards** is a family owned operation that is dedicated to supplying you with quality grapevines. We began production in 1990 with a small number of cuttings and have grown to over two million cuttings this year. We have increased our variety list to over 75, with production of other varieties by request. I have been involved in the grape industry all of my life and would be more than happy to discuss varietal planting tips or cultural practices with you.

Continued from Page 1.

**Ed Hellman** received his B.S. and M.S. degrees in Horticulture from the University of Illinois, and his Ph.D. in Plant Science from the University of Arkansas. He is no stranger to Midwest Viticulture, having worked at Kansas State University prior to taking a position as viticulturist at Oregon State University. While at Oregon State, he wrote the book "Oregon Viticulture" which has been widely acclaimed, both in Oregon and elsewhere in the grape and wine industry.

Dr. Hellman's primary responsibility is to plan and conduct Extension educational programs in viticulture in support of the Texas grape and wine industry. His program offers workshops, symposia, and field days to instruct growers in improved grape management practices. Dr. Hellman is currently developing a Viticulture Certificate program to be jointly offered by Texas Tech University and Texas Cooperative Extension.

Dr. Hellman's research program emphasizes improved management practices for winegrapes. Current projects include developing grapevine crop coefficients for irrigation scheduling, evaluating deficit irrigation strategies, and evaluating winegrape varieties and rootstocks for adaptation to Texas.

#### Selected Publication:

Hellman, E.W. (editor). 2003. *Oregon Viticulture*. Oregon State University Press. Corvallis, Oregon 264pp.

#### Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau Speaker to talk at the March Forum in Kearney, NE. Responsibilities

The Office of Headquarters Operations strives to support the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB) in its efforts to protect the American public and the revenue generated from its regulated industries. There are a number of principles that drive this Office and the work of its talented employees. Most important among them are:

▶ Ensuring that alcohol products are produced, labeled, advertised, and marketed according to Federal laws and regulations;

Joining us at the March Conference will be **Perky Ramroth**, Wine Industry Analyst with the TTB office in San Francisco. Perky will be presenting topics both Friday and Saturday and providing information essential for all wineries.

Visit our WEB site: [MidwestVineyardSupply.com](http://MidwestVineyardSupply.com)

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Elmer Swenson (continued from Page 1).

He would duck under wires and be in the next row while I was still trying to figure out the best way to follow him.

At one point in the afternoon I checked my watch and it was almost three o'clock, so I said I'd be glad to look at a few more vines. What seemed like a few minutes later, I check my watch again and it was twenty minutes before six p.m.! The time had just flown by and I learned so much that day as we tasted grapes and I tried to take notes on his comments ("this one won't make it commercially, but would be fine for home garden use"; "the Muscat of the paternal parent comes through and might make it good for breeding a good white winegrape"; and "the birds really love this one ('Petite Jewel') because it ripens too early and tastes so good, and its small berries make it easy to eat—I don't get many to taste or test because the birds got them!"). Eventually I had to break away and as I drove back to the Twin Cities, I marveled at Elmer Swenson's commitment, persistence and the fact that this teetotaler had developed so many cultivars destined to have such significant impact on the wine industry in Nebraska and elsewhere.

The following winter, Elmer sent me cuttings of several of his seedlings, ones that he felt would have promise for Nebraska vineyards. Many of these were planted in 1999 at our Nemaha research vineyard. In addition to 'Edelweiss', 'Saint Croix', and 'Petite Jewel' following are a few of Elmer's more important genotypes (not all are named as yet);

ES 3-24-7 = 'Prairie Star'

ES 4-8-33 = Louise Swenson (named after Elmer's wife)

ES 6-1-43 = Swenson White

ES 2-1-9 = Sabrevois (named by and important in the Quebec grape/wine industry).

ES 7-4-76 = Brianna (named by Ed Swanson)

ES 6-16-30 (not yet named)

ES 10-18-30 (not yet named)

ES 5-3-89 (not named, has Muscat character)

Many other genotypes of Elmer Swenson's breeding program have already made an impact on our industry as cultivars, with others yet to be named. In addition, Dr. James Luby, fruit breeder at the University of Minnesota, points out that the germplasm emanating from Elmer Swenson's breeding program will continue to be important to grape breeders worldwide. His plantings have been maintained for the last two years by members of the Minnesota Grape Growers Association.

Elmer Swenson was a quiet, almost shy, and humble man – small of stature, but a giant in the world of grape breeding and improvement.

Elmer Swenson died on December 24, 2004, but his contributions will continue to be felt for many years to come. We mourn his passing, but celebrate his life of achievement.

Paul E. Read

Editor's note: Elmer Swenson was presented with a plaque of appreciation at the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Nebraska Winery and GrapeGrowers Forum and Trade Show (in absentia).

**Preliminary Program**  
**8<sup>th</sup> Annual Nebraska Winery and Grape Growers**  
**Forum and Trade Show**

**Friday, March 4, 2005**

**Room DEF**

- 9:30 Annual Business meeting of the NWGGA
- 11:00 Lunch on your own. Visit the Trade Show --  
**Loper Room**

**Room DEF**

1:00pm **Welcome to the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Nebraska Winery and Grape Growers Forum & Trade Show**

**Darrell Nelson**, Dean and Director, Agricultural Research Division, IANR, University of Nebraska

**Elbert Dickey**, Dean/Director Cooperative Extension Division, IANR, University of Nebraska

**Lory Cappel**, Rural Initiatives Coordinator, Congressman Tom Osborne, McCook, NE.

1:15p **Ed Hellman**, Associate Professor and Extension Specialist in Viticulture, Texas A & M University, Lubbock, TX.

2:00p **Perky Ramroth**, "Federal Application Process for New Wineries"

2:45p Break – Visit the Trade Show – **Loper Room**

3:15p **Elizabeth Slater**, Owner of "In Short Direct Marketing". State of Marketing When You are Marketing the State".

4:00p **Jim Jeffers**, James Arthur Vineyards, "The Realities of Growing Grapes in Nebraska."

4:30p **Robert Holland**, Wine Group International, "Nebraska's World Market for Wine."

5:00p Visit the Trade Show – **Loper Room**

5:30p Reception – "A Taste of Nebraska's Finest Wines" – **Loper Room**

**Ballroom I and II**

6:30p Banquet – Entertainment – **Jack Oliva "Ragtime."**

**Saturday, March 5, 2005**

**Concurrent Sessions**

**Session I.....Advanced Viticulture.....Room BC**

**Session II.....Wineries and Winemaking.....Room DE**

**Session III Viticulture Basics and More.....Room F**

(Speakers, titles & times subject to change-actual program will be included in notebook received at registration).

**Concurrent Sessions**

**Session I – Advanced Viticulture**

**Room BC**

8:30a **Ed Hellman**, Associate Professor and Extension Specialist in Viticulture, Texas A & M University, Lubbock, TX

9:30a **Mike White – Extension Crop Specialist** – Iowa State University "Iowa's Developing Grape & Wine Industry"

10:00a Break – Visit the trade show – Loper Room

10:30a **Steve Menke –Enologist** , Penn State University "Wine Quality Assurance in Pennsylvania"

11:15a **Jim Schild**, Extension Educator, University of Nebraska, Scottsbluff Panhandle Research and Extension Center – "Vineyard Development in Western Nebraska".

Noon Lunch – Ballroom

1:30-30p Technical Seminars I – Exhibitor Representatives

**Session II – Wineries and Winemaking**

**Room DE**

8:00a **Steve Menke**, Pennsylvania State Enologist

8:30a **Perky Ramroth** –Federal Tax & Trade Bureau, "Federal Compliance Matters for Wineries"

9:15a **Wayne Woldt** – University of Nebraska, BioSystems Engineering, "The Electronic Nose"

9:40a **Keri Anderson** –University of Nebraska Viticulture Program "Analyzing the Health Benefits of Nebraska Wines".

10:00a Break – Trade Show Area – **Loper Room**

10:30a **Elizabeth Slater** – "Marketing Nebraska's Wines".

Noon Lunch – Trade Show Area – **Loper Room**

1:30 – 3:30 **Elizabeth Slater** Seminar – "Marketing Nebraska's Wines".

**Session III – Viticulture Basics and More**

**Room F**

8:30a "Vineyard Basics", **Steve Gamet**, University of Nebraska Viticulture Program

9:30a Fred Baxendale, **UNL Entomologist**, "**Grape Insect Identification and Management in Nebraska.**"

10:00 Break – Trade Show Area – Loper Room

10:30a "Vineyard Development", **Steve Gamet**, University of Nebraska Viticulture Program

11:15a **Patrick Byers**, SW Missouri State University, "Elderberry Production in the Mid-West".

Noon Lunch – Trade Show Area – Loper Room



NEBRASKA WINERY & GRAPE GROWERS  
Association

## 2005 WINE CONTEST ENTRY FORM

Each entry cost \$ 10.00. **Entry form and entry money must be received by February 19, 2005**  
Mail money and entry to Dale Lilyhorn, 3000 W. Branched Oak Rd, Raymond NE 68428. Wine is  
to be brought to Kearney conference by Friday 11:00 AM. **DO NOT send wine with entry form.**  
This is a low cost FUN CONTEST, but entry requirements must be followed without exception.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

### Categories (medals will be given to first, second and third place)

- # 1 White French American Hybrid Varietal Dry
- # 2 White French American Hybrid Varietal Sweet
- # 3 Red French American Hybrid Varietal Dry
- # 4 Red French American Hybrid Varietal Sweet
- # 5 White French American Hybrid Blend Dry
- # 6 White French American Hybrid Blend Sweet
- # 7 Red French American Hybrid Blend Dry
- # 8 Red French American Hybrid Blend Sweet
- # 9 White Vinifera Sweet
- # 10 White Vinifera Dry
- # 11 Red Vinifera Sweet
- # 12 Red Vinifera Dry
- # 13 Fruit Wine Dry
- # 14 Fruit Wine Sweet
- # 15 Mead Wines
- # 16 Sparking Wines
- # 17 Label

Category # \_\_\_\_\_ Category Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Vintage: \_\_\_\_\_

Varietal or % of Blends \_\_\_\_\_

Category # \_\_\_\_\_ Category Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Vintage: \_\_\_\_\_

Varietal or % of Blends \_\_\_\_\_

Category # \_\_\_\_\_ Category Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Vintage: \_\_\_\_\_

Varietal or % of Blends \_\_\_\_\_

This form may be reproduced for more entries.



Viticulture Program  
 377 Plant Science Hall  
 Lincoln, NE 68583-0724

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**Planning Ahead – Future Forums**

- 2005 – March 4 and 5 – Holiday Inn, Kearney, NE
- 2006 – March 3 and 4 – Holiday Inn, Kearney, NE
- 2007 – March 2 and 3 – Holiday Inn, Kearney, NE



**Eighth Annual Nebraska Winery and Grape Growers Forum and Trade Show materials enclosed! Beat the rush and save money– register by February 18, 2005**  
**See you**  
**March 4 and 5, 2005 – Kearney, NE.**